

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2021.885
Released – 8 July 2021**

Thank you for your email dated 30 June 2021 requesting information regarding temporary staff management.

Please find detailed below a summary of your original request together with our response.

Original request

Sourced Staffing Arrangements

- 1a. Do you have a master vendor (MV) or neutral vendor (NV) arrangement in place for sourcing agency staff? If so, please state which arrangement is in place -**
- 1b. What is the name of the MV/NV provider(s) and what staffing groups do they source? e.g. medical, nursing etc.**
- 1c. As part of the arrangement, is any technology provided by the supplier to help manage the procurement of agency staff?**
- 1d. Please provide the contract start and end date for the supplier (dd/mm/yy)**

Not applicable, we do not have a master vendor (MV) or neutral vendor (NV) arrangement in place.

Direct Engagement

- 2a. Does the organisation use a third party to provide a Direct Engagement/Outsourced Employment Solution? (This is where the NHS organisation sources agency staff via a recruitment agency but hold a direct contract between the organisation and the worker - there is often VAT savings associated to this employment model)**
- 2b. What is the name of the Direct Engagement (DE)/Outsourced Employment supplier (e.g. 247Time/Allocate, PlusUs, Retinue, Liaison etc.)**
- 2c. Under the DE/Outsourced Employment arrangement, which staffing groups are managed? For example; Medical, Admin, Scientific staff. Please list all applicable**
- 2d. Please provide the contract start and end date for the DE supplier (dd/mm/yy)**
- 2f. How much did the organisation pay the supplier in 20/21 (April 2020 to March 2021) for the provision of the direct engagement service?**

Not applicable, we do not use a third party to provide a Direct Engagement/Outsourced Employment Solution.

Vendor Management System for Nurse Agency

- 3a. Does the organisation use a third-party Vendor Management System for the supply of nurse agency staff?**
- 3b. Who supplies your Vendor Management System? E.g. Allocate, NHSP etc.**
- 3c. Please provide the contract start and end date for this provider (dd/mm/yy)**

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

Not applicable, we do not use a third-party Vendor Management System for the supply of nurse agency staff.

Bank Management

4a. Please name the technology provider used to manage the supply of your bank staff, inclusive of any outsourced or managed arrangements (i.e. NHSP, Bank Partners, Allocate, Liaison, Patchwork, Locum's Nest etc). If more than one supplier is used, please name all suppliers

Allocate

4b. Please name the staffing group each provider is used for e.g. medical, nursing, AHPs, admin and clerical

Agency workers – all staff groups / Bank workers - all staff groups with exception of medics

4c. Please provide the contract start and end date for each bank supplier (dd/mm/yy)

01/02/2021-31/1/2024

4d. How much did the organisation pay the supplier(s) in 20/21 for the provision of the bank service?

We can confirm that we hold information relating to how much was paid to the supplier of the bank service; however we feel that this information is considered to be commercially sensitive information that could be beneficial to competitors and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 43(2) is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption which requires that I provide evidence of harm in disclosure and a public interest test. I have included the relevant part of this exemption and the evidence of harm and public interest test below.

Section 43 – Commercial Interests

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information requested would be likely to damage the commercial interests of both the Trust and the company providing this service as it would assist competitors in the provision of this service.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of the information requested would contribute to the aims of openness and accountability which the Freedom of Information Act promotes. It would also show that there is transparency in the use of public funds and that public money is being used effectively.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The provision of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the existing provider and would affect the Trust's bargaining position during contractual negotiations should the contract be retendered, which would result in the less effective use of public money.

To release information relating to the existing provider would weaken their position in a competitive environment by revealing market-sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to competitors.

Balancing Test

Whilst we note that the provision of the information requested would ensure that we remain open and accountable, this is outweighed by the need for the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust to remain competitive with regards to proposed tenders and commercial activity and to protect the commercial interests of companies providing services to us.