

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2022.1132
Released – 30 March 2022

Thank you for your email received 18 March 2022 requesting information regarding rostering and job planning.

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

Summary of your original request:

Please can you fill out the below questions relating to the job planning and e-rostering system used at your organisation, for each staffing group outlined in columns B-D

Please see attached spreadsheet.

With regard to question 14, we are unable to provide details of the spend as if we were to release this information it would likely prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust and that of the providers of these services. Therefore this information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Commercial Interests.

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 providers of these services as it would assist competitors by providing information that may assist them during the tender process for the provision of these services.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of the information requested would contribute towards 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.

Chair John Goulston Acting Chief Executive Gordon Flack

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

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

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

The provision of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust during a tendering process which would result in the less effective use of public money.

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 tenders and commercial activity and to protect the commercial interests of the Trust and of those who provide services to the Trust.

I have therefore determined that the public interest in maintaining the exemption at section 43(2) outweighs that in disclosure and, in accordance with section 17(1) of the Act, this information is exempt.

2022.1132

Rostering and Job Planning FOI Questions

Please can you fill out the below questions relating to the job planning and e-rostering system used at your organisation, for each staffing group outlined in columns B-D

Job Planning

	Consultants	SAS Doctors*	Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)
1. Does your organisation use job planing software?	No	No	No
2. If yes, please can you specify the name of the job planning supplier?			
3. If no, could you please specify how you carry out job planning?- for example paper based, Excel, Microsoft word, Other- please state	Word	Word	None
4. What is the contract start date for your job planning supplier?			
5. What is the contract end date for your job planning supplier?			
6. What was the annual cost of your job planning supplier for the financial year 20/21 (April 2020 - March 2021)?			
7. For each staffing group what percentage of staff is job planning rolled out to?			
8. What other third-party systems does your Job planning system integrate with?			

E-Rostering

	Consultants	SAS Doctors*	Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)
9. Does your organisation use e-rostering software?	Y	Y	Y
10. If yes, please can you specify the name of your e-rostering supplier?	Allocate Software	Allocate Software	Allocate Software
11. If no, could you please specify how you carry out rostering?- for example paper based, Excel, Microsoft word, Other- please state			
12. What is the contract start date for your e-rostering supplier?	Feb 2021	Feb 2021	Feb 2021
13. What is the contract end date for your job e-rostering supplier?	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024
14. What was the annual cost of your e- rostering supplier for the financial year 20/21 (April 2020 - March 2021)?	Exempt under Section 43	Exempt under Section 43	Exempt under Section 43
15. For each staffing group, what percentage of staff are rostered on the system?			
16. Can staff self-roster on your platform? <i>Self rostering is when a staff member can sign up to shifts and choose their own work schedules themselves</i>	N	N	N
17. What percentage of rostered shifts are 'self-rostered'?	n/a	n/a	n/a
18. Is your job planning software application integrated with your e-rostering software?	n/a	n/a	n/a
19. What other third-party systems does your rostering system integrate with?	ESR, SafeCare, BankStaff, Instant Pay	ESR, SafeCare, BankStaff, Instant Pay	ESR, SafeCare, BankStaff, Instant Pay

*SAS Doctors includes specialty doctors and specialist grade doctors with at least four years of postgraduate training, two of which are in a relevant specialty.