

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2022.116
Released – 1 August 2022

Thank you for your email received 27 July 2022 requesting information regarding temporary staff.

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

Summary of your 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)***

The Trust does not have master vendor or neutral vendor arrangements in place so this section is not applicable.

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 21/22 (April 2021 to March 2022) for the provision of the direct engagement service?***

The Trust does not use a third party for direct engagement so this section is not applicable.

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)***

The Trust does not use a vendor management system so this section is not applicable.

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick

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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

Staffing groups are inclusive of all roles across the Trust.

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

Start date: 2015 End date: January 2024

4d. How much did the organisation pay the supplier(s) in 21/22 for the provision of the bank service?

We are not able to provide details of the amount paid for this system 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.

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.