



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-376

Date: 13th September 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 9th September 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding RM6281 Workforce Alliance Framework

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request concerning the procurement and award of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework for temporary clinical and healthcare staffing. I would appreciate your assistance in providing the following information:

Direct Award Method:

- o Has your Trust employed the direct award method for sourcing workers or small groups of workers under the RM6281 framework? If so, please provide evidence demonstrating that the selected suppliers offered the most economically advantageous terms in accordance with the framework's guidelines.**
- o What measures does your Trust implement to ensure transparency and fairness in direct award decisions, including maintaining a clear audit trail?**

A1 The Trust uses Health Trust Europe Total Workforce Solutions II framework for Medical Locums, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals/Health Science Services staff.

Q2 Further Competition:

- o Has your Trust used the further competition process for awarding contracts where adjustments to the framework terms were necessary or where commercial benefits could be achieved? Please provide documentation detailing:**
 - The identification of the relevant lot.**
 - Invitations sent to all capable suppliers.**
 - Evaluation criteria used to determine the most economically advantageous tender.**
 - Evidence of a fair and transparent evaluation process.**

A2 Trust Agency competitive exercises were conducted by Health Trust Europe on behalf of the Trust and they retain the documentation.

- Q3 Neutral or Master Vendor:**
- o If your Trust utilizes a neutral or master vendor to manage temporary staffing, how do you ensure these vendors comply with the framework's requirements, including the Public Contracts Regulations 2015? Please provide evidence of compliance with the framework's rules for transparency, fairness, and economic advantage.
 - o What processes are in place to monitor and audit the actions of neutral or master vendors?
- A3 The Trust has Master Vendor contracts for Nursing and Allied Health Professionals/Health Science Services. The supplier compliance is monitored by the relevant frameworks.
- Q4 Supplier Selection and Exclusion:**
- o Please explain how your Trust lawfully selects certain suppliers while excluding others under the RM6281 framework. What justifications are used for these decisions, and how do you ensure compliance with the framework and procurement regulations?
- A4 Not applicable
- Q5 Processes for Supplier Selection:**
- o Could you outline the process your Trust follows when selecting suppliers for temporary clinical and healthcare staff under RM6281? This should include the decision-making steps for choosing between direct award, further competition, or engaging a neutral/master vendor.
 - o Please provide contact details for the department responsible for handling legal queries related to procurement under the framework.
- A5 Not applicable
- Q6 Additional Information:**
- o The total number of agencies listed under Lot 1 and the rates at which they supply their services.
 - o The name of the master or neutral vendor managing shift allocation.
 - If your Trust is not using the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework, please specify which framework is currently in use.
- A6 Not applicable as the Trust uses Health Trust Europe Total Workforce Solutions II

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records