



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-690

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 6th March 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 15th February 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding locum doctor spend.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in question 3 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all departmental records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all departmental records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

On 18th February 2019 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on whether you were asking:

- a) The percentage of hours covered by Locum Doctors
- or
- b) The average hours covered by Locum Doctors as a percentage of total hours?

On the same day you replied via email the following:

"Thank you for coming back to me; sorry if my question wasn't clear, I would like to know by Grade and Speciality on average what was covered by Locum Doctors".

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 University Hospitals of North Midlands locum doctor spend on agency doctors broken down by Hospital, Grade and Speciality for the last 12 months



A1 Please see below:

Hospital	Speciality	Consultant (£)	Staff/Career Grade (£)	Trainee Grades (£)	Grand Total (£)
County	Acute Medicine	737,697	14,245	267,515	1,019,457
	Frail Elderly	276,934	9,367	164,849	451,150
	General Medicine	0	336	0	336
	Medicine Division Management	198,172	0	328,988	527,160
	Respiratory	217,725	0	88,671	306,396
County Total		1,430,528	23,948	850,022	2,304,498
Royal Stoke	Acute Medicine	512,811	48,642	364,708	926,160
	Anaesthetics	0	1,150	0	1,150
	Frail Elderly	272,431	77,053	250,534	600,018
	General Medicine	4,106	0	61,876	65,982
	Imaging	0	0	-2,275	-2,275
Respiratory	379,221	0	147,721	526,941	
Royal Stoke Total		1,168,568	126,845	822,563	2,117,975
Royal Stoke / County	A&E	1,009,364	33,321	999,332	2,042,017
	Acute Medicine	-2,519	0	0	-2,519
	Anaesthetics	985,833	87,971	111,883	1,185,687
	Breast Surgery	23,769	0	95,623	119,392
	Cardiology	0	0	21,135	21,135
	Cardiothoracic Surgery	0	16,844	93,234	110,078
	Child Health	216,936	6,276	62,051	285,264
	Clinical Haematology	21,202	0	0	21,202
	Colorectal Surgery	0	0	57,982	57,982
	Dermatology	23,690	0	0	23,690
	Ent	0	40,750	68,878	109,629
	Escalation Wards	15,300	0	39,693	54,993
	Frail Elderly	97,596	9,283	144,550	251,429
	Gastroenterology	769,987	0	24,064	794,051
	General Medicine	329,039	-499	260,697	589,237
	General Surgery	87,187	18,304	104,911	210,402
	Imaging	362,865	26,175	0	389,040
	Infectious Diseases	0	0	6,015	6,015
	Medicine Division Management	-325	-6,000	9,687	3,362
	Neuro Surgery	3,016	8,351	160,152	171,519
	Neurology	177,792	4,721	193,908	376,421
	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	0	46,577	82,924	129,501
	Oncology	674,364	0	33,950	708,314
	Ophthalmology	13,325	0	24,061	37,386
	Orthopaedics	194,541	3,868	408,846	607,255
	Pathology	487,569	0	30,400	517,969
	Pharmacy	0	0	4,436	4,436
	Plastics	0	0	50,990	50,990
	Renal	0	0	77,436	77,436
	Stroke	-25,596	0	199,007	173,411
	Upper Gi Surgery	51,586	0	44,329	95,915
	Urology	24,514	0	64,802	89,316
	Vascular Surgery	28,562	2,725	66,287	97,574
Other	50,000	200,000	0	250,000	
Royal Stoke / County Total		5,619,596	498,668	3,541,262	9,659,526
Grand Total		8,218,692	649,461	5,213,847	14,082,000

Q2 The average charge per hour broken down by Hospital, Grade and speciality

A2 Please refer to the attached spread sheet.

- Q3 The average by percentage of hours covered by Locum Doctors again broken down by Grade and Speciality for the last 12 months.**
- A3 Section 12 exemption as detailed above
- Q4 All other most recent analysis on the staff shortages with the Trust broken down by Hospital for the last 12 months.**
- A4 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding staff shortages, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/How-we-are-run/Pages/SafeStaffingLevels.aspx>

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

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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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance

