



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-371

Date: 17th September 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th September 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Workforce Alliance Rm6281

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 formally submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request concerning the procurement and award of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework for providing temporary nurses and clinical staffing. I kindly request your assistance in addressing the following inquiries:

Compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015: Please provide information on how the Trust ensures that the awarding of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework adheres to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

A1 Not applicable- UHNM use the Health Trust Europe Total Workforce Solutions II framework

Q2 Non-discrimination and Fairness: How does the Trust ensure that it does not discriminate or act unfairly towards suppliers when selecting contractors under this framework?

A2 Not applicable

Q3 Supplier Invitation: Does the Trust invite all approved suppliers under the framework to bid or supply services, as stipulated by the framework's rules? If so, could you provide evidence or examples of this process in practice?

A3 Not applicable

Q4 Supplier Selection Process: Please outline the legal justification the Trust uses when selecting certain suppliers while excluding others under the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework.

A4 Not applicable

Q5 Compliance with Selection Criteria: Could you explain the process by which suppliers are selected under the framework, particularly concerning ensuring compliance with the selection criteria set out in the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015?

A5 Not applicable

Q6 Further Competition Process: Could you describe the process your Trust follows for further competition under the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework? Specifically, do you use direct awards, or do you invite suppliers for further competition for Lot 1? Please provide evidence to support your response.

A6 Not applicable

Q7 Evidence of Compliance: Kindly provide any documentation or evidence demonstrating how the Trust ensures compliance with the aforementioned regulations and framework rules when awarding contracts under Lot 1 for the provision of temporary nurses and clinical staffing.

A7 Not applicable

Q8 Legal Queries and Proceedings: Please provide contact details (department and individual, if available) for submitting legal queries or initiating legal proceedings related to procurement processes under this framework

A8 See below:

Andrew Vernon*
Associate Director of Legal Services
Andrew.vernon@uhnm.nhs.uk

Nathan Joy-Johnson*
Group Director of Procurement
Nathan.joy-johnson@uhnm.nhs.uk

*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.

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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