

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-517

Date: 14th January 2025

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 4th November 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) Total Workforce Solutions

On 6th November 2024 we contacted you via email with the following.
To continue with your request we require clarification what you mean by Q13?

On 19th November 2024 you replied with:

'Regarding Question 13, my intention is to request the following:

1. *Agency Spend Data:*

o If your organization publishes detailed agency spend reports on your FOI website, please direct me to the specific location or page where I can access this information.

o If such data is not publicly available, I request a summary or detailed breakdown of agency spending for the period 1st July 2024 to 30th October 2024.

2. *Clarification on Missing Data:*

o If any part of my initial request is unclear or if the requested data is incomplete, I would like a comprehensive response based on the available information or further guidance on how to refine my inquiry.'

Q1 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information about the usage and supplier management of the RM6281 Workforce Alliance framework within your Trust. Please respond to the following questions:

1. Supplier Addition (Lot 1 under RM6281):

o How many approved suppliers have been added to the Trust's supplier list for Lot 1 under RM6281 from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?

o Framework Usage Confirmation:

o Does the Trust currently use the RM6281 framework or Total Workforce Solutions HTE for staffing requirements?

3. Preferred Supplier List (PSL):

o What are the names of the agencies on your PSL that supply agency staff under Lot 1 RM6281 framework or Total Workforce Solution HTE, and what tier is each agency assigned to?

4. Shift Booking Above NHSE Capped Rate:

o How many shifts were booked above the NHS England capped rate from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?

5. Spending on Off-Framework Agencies:

o What was the total spent on off-framework agencies from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?

- What are the names of these agencies, and what reasons are there for their continued use despite NHS England's restrictions?
- 6. Spend on Approved Framework Suppliers:
 - What was the total spent on approved framework suppliers between 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?
 - In which area of specialty within Lot 1 does the Trust require a supplier that can book shifts within the capped rate to avoid breaches?
 - If applicable, what are the reasons for breaches of the capped rates for shifts?
- 7. Framework Supplier Addition:
 - Would the Trust add an approved framework supplier immediately if it could help reduce breaches of the NHSE capped rate?
- 8. Spending on Framework Agencies:
 - How much was spent on framework agencies from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?
- 9. Supplier Selection Process:
 - Does the Trust use Direct Award or Further Competition to select suppliers?
 - What criteria are used to select suppliers, and is the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) principle applied?
- 10. Audit Trail for Contract Awards:
 - Could you provide a documented audit trail showing how contract awards were made, particularly for direct awards? This documentation should align with RM6281's Framework Schedule 7, which requires clear justification and transparency in awarding contracts.
- 11. Neutral Vendor Information (if outsourced):
 - If a neutral or master vendor is used, please provide the organisation's name, contact person, email, and office contact number.
- 12. Further Competition and Framework Adherence:
 - What was the date of the last further competition conducted?
 - Has the Trust fully transitioned to using RM6281 and followed the guidance in Schedule 7 for supplier selection?
 - Can you confirm adherence to the MEAT guidance provided in the framework?
- 13. Agency Spend Clarification:
 - We have reviewed your organisation's FOI website but could not locate the requested information. If any part of these questions is unclear or incomplete, please provide a full response or reach out for clarification.

A1 Please refer to the attached documents that you supplied

*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,



Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records
Data Protection Officer