



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-446

Date: 29th November 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 10th October 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding strike cost.

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 I would like to request information regarding the money spent by your trust on NHS strike cover, over doctor strike periods.

For the following strike dates (inclusive):

13/3/23 - 15/3/23

11/4/23 - 14/4/23

14/6/23 - 16/6/23

13/7/23 - 18/7/23

20/7/23 - 21/7/23

11/8/23 - 14/8/23

24/8/23 - 25/8/23

19/9/23 - 22/9/23

02/10/23 - 04/10/23

Please can you provide:

- 1. The total temporary staff spend on each day in the periods requested**
- 2. The total spend on strike cover on each day in the periods requested**
- 3. The top five daily rates paid for i) doctor and ii) nurse on each day in the periods requested**

A1 Not all of the information you have requested is recorded in the format you are requiring for all these years and would therefore require us to extrapolate information from approximately 33 spreadsheets and over 4775 lines and create a new report to provide this. The FOI Act covers information held by the Trust, and we are not obliged to create new information in order to answer an FOI request, As well as creating new information, this would also take in excess of the 18 hours allowed for under the FOI Act, and would therefore be exempt under section 12: cost of compliance is excessive.

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 your questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in 33 separate spreadsheets as detail above. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all spreadsheet 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 spreadsheets and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

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 we can comply with your request within the 18 hour timeframe by providing the following:

Cost per month is below.

£000s	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Pay								
• Consultant	473		334	383	388	157	33	1,767
• Staff/Career grade	156		158	282	309	154	48	1,108
• Junior Drs.	116		114	210	179	107	14	741
• Nursing	101		35	68	37	57	11	309
• Pharmacy	8		-	3	2	1	0	13
Non-pay	12		17	25	34	20	-	99
								13
Totals	867	-	659	971	948	495	110	4,050

*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