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Request for Information Reference: 04.23.26

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

31st May 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 14th April 2023 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to Agency Spend and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Last financial year agency locum spend, Please break down into Specialty and Grade.

Please see the table overleaf.

2022/23 Cost	Consultants	Career/Staff Grades	Trainee Grades	Grand Total
Anaesthetics	£152,838	£42	£14,724	£167,604
Blood Sciences	£0	£0	-£134	-£134
Cardiology	£38,771	£0	£6,332	£45,103
Celluar Pathology	£186,888	£1,015	£0	£187,902
Css Radiology	£12,000	£12,000	£0	£24,000
Dermatology	£132,345	£0	£8,523	£140,868
Diabetes	£0	£0	£26,018	£26,018
Elderly	£325,952	£0	£21,497	£347,448
Ent	-£2,952	£0	£77,755	£74,803
Haematology/Oncology	£0	£0	£36,045	£36,045
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	£0	£0	£109,613	£109,613
Operations	£1,365	£0	£0	£1,365
Ophthalmology	£37,197	£0	£110,398	£147,595
Oral Surgery	-£3,934	£0	£0	-£3,934
Orthopaedics	-£1,975	£0	£178,744	£176,770
Paediatrics	£328,165	£0	£173,839	£502,004
Plastic Surgery	£45,165	£0	-£285	£44,879
Respiratory	£0	£0	£42,240	£42,240
Stroke	£316,171	£0	£204	£316,375
Surgery & Urology	£263,493	£30	£125,764	£389,288
Therapies	£0	£0	£0	£0
Community	£0	£2,872	-£2,637	£236
AMU	£0	£0	£1,261	£1,261
Emergency	£217,419	£0	£493,838	£711,257
Urgent Care	£0	-£21,823	£0	-£21,823
Central Medicine	£78,122	£0	£777,395	£855,518
	£2,127,030	-£5,864	£2,201,134	£4,322,300

2. The retention rates for permanent and fixed term staff - Doctors and Nurses only, Please break down into Specialty and Grade

Nursing & Midwifery - 87.17%
 Medical & Dental - 88.81%

The Trust does not centrally record this information broken down and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

3. Please provide the Names of agencies used to fill vacancies and how much each agency charges

Kate Cowhig International Healthcare Recruitment (Nursing)
 Xander Hendrix Healthcare (AHP)
 Skilled Medical (Medical)
 ID Medical (Medical)

Medacs (Medical)
Holt Doctors (Medical)
Remedium Partners (Medical)
BDI Resourcing (Medical)

The Trust are unable to provide the information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

Section 43 (2) exempts from disclosure the following:

(2) Information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information.

Our suppliers have made clear representation that pricing for the service is commercially sensitive information, the disclosure of which would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests, as it would provide alternative bidders with an understanding of their costs (which would not be reciprocated) with respect to similar contracts in the NHS, thereby undermining their ability to tender, on fair and equal terms, for such contracts. The Trust considers that there is potential for such harm to arise with reasonable proximity and, therefore, that the exemption under Section 43(2) of the Act is engaged.

The Trust acknowledges the public interest in publication of the information; specifically the interest in transparency with respect to expenditure on services, as a means of assisting the taxpayer in evaluating their value for money. However, there is a competing public interest in preserving fair market competition and the ability of public authorities to obtain value for money when sourcing services. In previous rulings the Information Commissioner has made clear that the Freedom of Information Act is not intended to distort fair market competition. In this case, the Trust therefore considers that the public interest in preserving fair competition outweighs the general public interest in transparency and is therefore applying the exemption under Section 43(2).

The Trust is however able to provide a link to the contract register which does contain some information, though not necessarily what you have requested, on a number of our providers. The register can be found here - [County Durham and Darlington - Information for Suppliers \(cddft.nhs.uk\)](http://cddft.nhs.uk)

- 4. Please provide your trust wide budgeted establishment per specialty and grade for Doctors**
- **Name of Speciality / Division or Directorate**
 - **Consultants, Locum Consultant Contract and Associate Specialists**
 - **CT/ST3 - CT/ST7, Specialty Doctors, Senior Clinical Fellows, CESR Fellow or Middle Grade Level**
 - **FY1-ST2, Trust Grade, Junior Clinical Fellow or SHO level**
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WTE Budget	Consultants	Career/Staff Grades	Trainee Grades	Grand Total
Anaesthetics	60.60	21.00	14.00	95.60
Blood Sciences	1.81	0.00	0.00	1.81
Business Development Dept	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cancer Services Dept	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.10
Cardiology	10.82	2.00	9.00	21.82
Cellular Pathology	9.33	5.00	0.00	14.33
CG Management	3.20	3.11	2.00	8.31
Community Dental	1.90	9.02	2.14	13.06
Css Health Improvement Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Css Radiology	18.52	6.00	1.00	25.52
Dermatology	6.47	7.46	0.00	13.93
Diabetes	11.07	2.40	7.00	20.47
Elderly	11.90	7.80	24.00	43.70
Endoscopy	2.80	0.80	0.00	3.60
ENT	6.60	3.00	4.00	13.60
Gastroenterology	10.00	3.00	10.00	23.00
Gp & Psychiatry Dept	0.00	0.00	21.00	21.00
Haematology/Oncology	4.31	0.00	1.00	5.31
Health Informatics Dept	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Integrated Sexual Health	4.27	1.80	0.00	6.07
Medical Director Department	1.50	0.00	0.00	1.50
Medical Education	5.38	3.00	1.00	9.38
Neurology	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.85
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	25.75	12.00	12.00	49.75
Ophthalmology	10.84	6.96	4.00	21.80
Oral Surgery	1.65	0.80	0.00	2.45
Orthopaedics	24.00	20.33	16.00	60.33
Paediatrics	36.72	12.05	17.20	65.97
Pain Management	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.80
Plastic Surgery	9.05	8.28	4.00	21.33
Respiratory	10.28	4.00	13.00	27.28
Rheumatology	4.80	0.00	0.00	4.80
Stroke	7.00	1.00	2.00	10.00
Surgery & Urology	23.89	19.00	20.00	62.89
Therapies	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.55
Corporate	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Community	3.80	3.11	0.00	6.91
AMU	15.00	6.20	14.00	35.20
Emergency	32.40	20.11	50.61	103.12
Prisons	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.15
Urgent Care	0.00	20.25	0.00	20.25
Central Medicine	6.00	8.50	33.50	48.00
	385.96	218.13	282.45	886.54

- 5. Please what is your actual current establishment for Doctor**
- **Name of Speciality / Division or Directorate**
 - **Consultants, Locum Consultant Contract and Associate Specialists**
 - **CT/ST3 - CT/ST7, Specialty Doctors, Senior Clinical Fellows, CESR Fellow or Middle Grade Level**
 - **FY1-ST2, Trust Grade, Junior Clinical Fellow or SHO level**

WTE Budget	Consultants	Career/Staff Grades	Trainee Grades	Grand Total
Anaesthetics	54.30	30.37	20.38	105.05
Blood Sciences	1.81	0.00	0.00	1.81
Business Development Dept	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03
Cancer Services Dept	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cardiology	10.80	2.00	8.00	20.80
Celluar Pathology	11.01	2.80	0.00	13.81
CG Management	1.90	0.00	0.00	1.90
Community Dental	1.74	6.51	2.00	10.25
Css Health Improvement Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Css Radiology	18.40	4.50	3.00	25.90
Dermatology	7.11	6.96	0.00	14.07
Diabetes	9.85	3.28	8.61	21.74
Elderly	9.77	4.40	25.56	39.73
Endoscopy	3.70	1.00	0.00	4.70
ENT	6.09	4.00	2.60	12.69
Gastroenterology	11.50	2.00	7.93	21.43
Gp & Psychiatry Dept	0.00	0.00	18.88	18.88
Haematology/Oncology	4.26	0.00	1.00	5.26
Health Informatics Dept	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Integrated Sexual Health	4.15	1.50	0.00	5.65
Medical Director Department	2.13	0.60	0.00	2.73
Medical Education	3.83	8.30	1.00	13.13
Neurology	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	27.61	21.97	16.24	65.82
Ophthalmology	10.59	5.00	0.66	16.25
Oral Surgery	2.15	0.00	0.00	2.15
Orthopaedics	23.00	20.00	16.95	59.95
Paediatrics	33.96	24.82	16.62	75.40
Pain Management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plastic Surgery	7.00	9.23	3.00	19.23
Respiratory	8.50	5.82	11.81	26.13
Rheumatology	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Stroke	3.88	0.00	4.00	7.88
Surgery & Urology	23.55	17.00	21.00	61.55
Therapies	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.57
Corporate	1.70	0.00	0.00	1.70
Community	3.95	0.80	0.00	4.75
AMU	13.31	4.00	15.00	32.31
Emergency	30.45	11.96	58.99	101.40
Prisons	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
Urgent Care	0.00	16.50	0.00	16.50
Central Medicine	0.00	1.00	34.98	35.98
Total	356.60	217.32	298.21	872.13

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator