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Request for Information Reference: 10.23.26

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

Dear

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 9<sup>th</sup> October 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 Funding for Strike Cover and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**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**

The Trust does not centrally record this information in a way that allows us to extract the information across all payment sources and as such we are unable to report on the data requested. In order to provide a response the Trust estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the data requested. It would require a member of staff to request and collate information from each department in respect of their substantive doctor rotas and hours that were offset against bank work in order to calculate pay for those shifts. This data would then need to be compared with costs from the Trust's agency to determine the highest pay to cover industrial action on the days 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.

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 am sorry that I have not been able to provide all of the information you requested, however I hope that my explanation as to why this is not possible has been satisfactory. 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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator**