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Request for Information Reference: 10.23.37

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

Email only

7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 11<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 NHS agency-locum spending and financial plans and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

#### **FOI REQUEST:**

#### **My request is as follows:**

- **Firstly, please could you tell me the NHS agency/locum spending cap/ceiling agreed at the start of this financial year.**
- **Secondly, please could you send me the following data from the financial plans submitted at the start of the year, giving the planned positions for each month from M1 to M12:**
  1. **Trust financial position (revenue expenditure)**
    - a. **Planned surplus/deficit**
    - b. **Planned expenditure**
  2. **Workforce expenditure**
    - a. **Planned agency/locum spend**
    - b. **Planned bank spend**
    - c. **Planned total staff expenditure**
  3. **Efficiency savings**
    - a. **Planned efficiency savings**

- **Finally, please could you send me the following data for each month of this financial year to date:**
  1. **Trust financial position**
    - a. **Actual surplus/deficit, and forecast outturn for M12**
    - b. **Actual expenditure, and forecast outturn for M12**
  2. **Workforce expenditure**
    - a. **Actual agency/locum spend, and forecast outturn for M12**
    - b. **Actual bank spend, and forecast outturn for M12**
    - c. **Actual spend relating to industrial action, and forecast outturn for M12**
    - d. **Actual total staff expenditure, and forecast outturn for M12**
  3. **Efficiency savings**
    - a. **Achieved efficiency savings, and forecast outturn for M12**
  4. **Prescribing costs**
    - a. **Actual spend relating to prescribing, and forecast outturn for M12**

Please find enclosed the answers via a spreadsheet. Please note that the plan details are those submitted at the beginning of the financial year with inflation aligned to the cost uplift factor in the 2023/24 NHS Payment Scheme guidance which was 2.1% for workforce expenditure. The plan did not reflect the NHS pay deal which was agreed later.

In relation to question 2c, The Trust does not centrally record this information in a way that allows us to extract the information 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 rotas and hours that were offset against bank work in order to calculate pay for those shifts.

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 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](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**