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**King's Mill Hospital**  
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27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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Join today: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference:** Trust expenditure on doctor recruitment through external agencies during the 2023/24 financial year and 2024/25 financial year to date (05/11/24)

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. How much did the Trust spend on agency locum doctors during the 2023/24 financial year? Can you please provide a breakdown of how much was spent per grade of doctor, specialty of doctor and the number of total hours booked in each specialty	Please see accompanying document FOI 388 Q1			
2. Can you please name which agencies provided the locum doctors relevant to the answer to my previous question (question 1) and the number of hours each agency provided?		Yes	Section 43 (2)	<p>Whilst the Trust holds the breakdown of information as requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.</p> <p>In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.</p> <p>We have concluded providing the information could cause harm to the Trust as this could distort the market-place and therefore, result in the Trust not obtaining best value for money.</p> <p>In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater</p>

				than the public interest in disclosing the information.
3. How much did the Trust spend on agency fees/costs when recruiting doctors to fixed term or permanent contracts via external agency during each period (i.e. where an introductory fee was charged)?	£84,667 excluding VAT for 13 Doctors (grade information not available via data source).			
4. Can you please name which agencies provided the work/doctors outlined in question 3 and how many doctors each one has successfully provided to the Trust?	As per Q2			
5. Has the Trust conducted any overseas trips since 2022 to conduct recruitment activities for doctors?	No			

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email [sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net](mailto:sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net).

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email [sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net).

Yours faithfully

#### Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.