

Information Governance

1 December 2016

Our Ref: RFI 18818

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Spend on Agency Medical Locums for financial year 2015/2016**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for the information relating to the above which you requested on 2 November 2016.

A response to each of the questions raised is attached in Appendix A.

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to me at the address below.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

**L McAree (Miss)
Head of Information Governance &
Directorate Support**

Q1. *What was your total spend for the last financial year (2015/2016) for agency medical locums?*

A1. Total agency medical locum spend for financial year 2015/2016 was £4,433,693

Q2. *What was that spend broken by specialty, for example Accident and Emergency, Anaesthetics, Medicine, Mental Health, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Surgery?*

A2. Please see Table 1 below for agency medical locum breakdown.

Table 1

Department	Spend £
A&E	1,516,893
Medicine	1,515,836
Mental Health	258,060
Obs & Gynae	800,713
Surgery	135,055
Other	207,135
Total	4,433,693

Q3. *What was that spend broken down by agency.*

A3. The Trust is unable to provide a response to this question as we are unable to reconcile actual payments to each supplier, with our overall agency cost, as this includes various accruals and adjustments. Any further work on this would also involve the use of several electronic systems and would take in excess of one week to complete.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 under Section 12(1), so it will not be possible to make this information available to you.

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

Q4. *What was your total spend for the last financial year (2015/16) for agency nurses?*

A4. The total spend for agency nurses for the financial year 2015/2016 was £1,165,226.

Q5. *What was that spend broken by specialty, for example Accident and Emergency, Community, Critical, General, Mental Health, Midwifery, and Theatres?*

A5. Please see Table 2 below for nursing agency breakdown

Table 2

Department	Spend £
A&E	84,604
Critical	2,436
General Medicine	107,810
Surgery	71,778
Other	898,598
Total	1,165,226

Q6. *What was that spend broken down by agency?*

A6. The Trust is unable to provide a response to this question as we are unable to reconcile actual payments to each supplier, with our overall agency cost, as this includes various accruals and adjustments. Any further work on this would also involve the use of several electronic systems and would take in excess of one week to complete.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 under Section 12(1), so it will not be possible to make this information available to you.

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