

Our Ref: NG/RM/24121  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Nicola Griffiths  
Deputy Director of Governance  
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust  
Lawton House  
Bellringer Road  
Trentham  
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

### Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

#### ***Requested information:***

1. What contractual relationships are in place for supplying agency nurses and who is responsible for managing them?

**Currently, the Trust has one contract in place with Day Webster Group  
Contracts are managed by Procurement which is outsourced and provided by  
University Hospital of North Midlands (UHNM) <https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/>**

2. How many agencies are used to supply agency nurses?

**Six nursing agency suppliers, only one through Master Vendor contract**

3. Of these agencies, how many are off framework – please list them?

**Three are off framework:**

- **Dr S Fawcett & Dr M Williams**
- **Locum Health**
- **Thornbury Nursing Services**

4. Over the past 6 months, how many shifts have been filled via an off-framework agency?

**From 01/11/2024 – 01/04/2024, a total of 608 shifts for Thornbury  
Information for Locum Health and Dr S Fawcett & Dr M Williams are not held in  
a reportable format. It would be disproportionate to have to review individual  
invoices, the cost of collating the information in order to respond to your request  
would exceed the threshold of £450 as defined by the Freedom of Information  
and Data Protection (Appropriate limit Fees) Regulations 2004. As a result, we  
are refusing your request under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000.**

5. Who is your highest paid agency nurse, what is their speciality and their hourly charge?

**Mental Health Speciality- basic hourly rate £69.95**

6. Please outline your spend per agency, broken down by grade and speciality of nurse over the past 6 months?

Agency Nurse Supplier	2023/24- M6-M12 £000
Aspect Healthcare Limited	86
Day Webster	332
Dr S Fawcett & Dr M Williams	1
ID Medical	4
Locum Health	5
Thornbury Nursing Services	944

We are unable to breakdown spend by grade or speciality as would require a manual trawl of invoices. The cost of collating the information in order to respond to your request would exceed the threshold of £450 as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit Fees) Regulations 2004. As a result, we are refusing your request under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. 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: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



**Nicola Griffiths**  
**Deputy Director of Governance**