

Our Ref: LW/lmw/FOI.307.23
Date: 13th October 2023

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

Tel 01782 275030

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 26th September 2023. 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. A list of the OFF-framework agencies used by the trust in the past 12 months.
Thornbury Nursing Services
2. The average length of time a long-term agency placement is left vacant before being filled by the agencies who are ON framework in the past 12 months.
Unfortunately, this information is not held in an easily accessible format and not easily obtained without individually checking each shift and its lead time. We believe that the cost of collating the information 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.
3. How many long-term bookings and individual shifts have been placed through OFF-framework agencies in the past 12 months' (Please separate individual shifts and long-term placements? **638 filled shifts – all shifts relate to one patient who has specific and exceptional needs which cannot be met from within the Trusts core staffing establishment, and they are placed with the Trust on a temporary basis.**
4. Average cost per hour for Band 5, 6 and 7 agency workers paid to OFF-framework agencies in the past 12 months.

	Breakdown of rates	Standard Hourly rates
RN Specialist	Basic Mon-Fri 08:00- 14:00	£69.95
	P1 Mon-Thu 14:00-08:00	£86.95
	P2 Fri 14:00- Mon 08:00	£93.45

These rates were charged for Specialist Registered Nurses, irrelevant of banding.

5. Who in the Trust has authority to approve the use of off-framework agencies (name and job title) **Chief Operating Officer and the Executive Director on call out of hours.**
6. If authority to use off-framework agencies in the Trust lies with a specific department i.e., temporary staffing/staffing solutions/agency bookings/NHSP or equivalents, then who in the Trust has the authority to override such decision made by that department (name and job title)

Chief Operating Officer and the Executive Director on call out of hours.

Information relating to members of the Board can be found at <https://www.combined.nhs.uk/about-us/our-board/our-board/>

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



Laurie Wrench
Deputy Director of Governance



Chairman: David Rogers
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
www.combined.nhs.uk

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