

Our Ref: NG/RM/25053  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. 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. Does your organisation engage a Neutral Vend or Master Vend agency supplier for:

a. Medical

- i. Name of the NV or MV agency supplier – **Neutral Vend**
- ii. Expiry date of contract with the NV or MV agency supplier? **29/11/2026**

b. Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)

- i. Name of the NV or MV agency supplier. **N/A**
- ii. Expiry date of contract with the NV or MV agency supplier. **N/A**

c. Non-Medical, Non-Clinical (NMNC)

- i. Name of the NV or MV agency supplier. **N/A**
- ii. Expiry date of contract with the NV or MV agency supplier. **N/A**

d. Nursing

- i. Name of the NV or MV agency supplier. **Day Webster**
- ii. Expiry date of contract with the NV or MV agency supplier. **30/09/2025**

2. Does your organisation utilise a Direct Engagement (DE) supplier for:

a. Medical

- i. Name of the DE provider. **Retinue**
- ii. Expiry date of contract with the DE provider. **29/11/2026**
- iii. % of DE currently achieved. **100%**

b. Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)

- i. Name of the DE provider. **N/A**
- ii. Expiry date of contract with the DE provider. **N/A**



Chair: Janet Dawson  
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo  
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iii. % of DE currently achieved. **N/A**

c. Non-Medical, Non-Clinical (NMNC)

i. Name of the DE provider. **N/A**

ii. Expiry date of contract with the DE provider. **N/A**

iii. % of DE currently achieved. **N/A**

3. For the most recent Financial Year available please can you supply the spend figures on temporary agency staffing (worker pay & agency commission only) for:

a. Medical.

b. Allied Health Professionals (AHPs).

c. Non-Medical, Non-Clinical (NMNC).

d. Nursing.

**Please see Appendix 1 attached.**

4. For the most recent Financial Year you have available please can you supply the number of hours worked by temporary agency workers for:

a. Medical. **16,956.25 hours**

b. Nursing. **11967 hours**

c. Allied Health Professionals (AHPs).

d. Non-Medical, Non-Clinical (NMNC).

**Number of hours for AHPs and NMNC staffing is not held in a reportable format, to supply this information would require a manual trawl of invoices. We believe that 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. Where a contract is in place for the provision of a Neutral Vend, Master Vend and/ or a Direct Engagement supplier, please can you advise who the lead contact or responsible officer within the organisation is for this contract?

– Name: **Eric Gardiner**

– Job title: **Chief Finance Officer**

**Staff email addresses are exempt as they constitute personal data and would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 (in accordance with qualified exemption S40 (2)(a) of the FOI Act).**

6. Alternatively, please can you advise who is responsible for temporary agency staffing at the organisation across the following departments:

a. Workforce Lead

Job Title: **E-Rostering & Temporary Staffing Manager.**

b. Procurement Lead

Job Title: **Deputy Director of Procurement - UHNM, Special Projects and Clinical Procurement.**

**Staff names and email addresses are exempt as they constitute personal data and would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 (in accordance with qualified exemption S40 (2)(a) of the FOI Act).**

c. Finance Lead

- Name: **Eric Gardiner**
- Job Title: **Chief Finance Officer**

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**

#### Agency by Staff Group 2023-24

Staff Type	Apr-23 £000	May-23 £000	Jun-23 £000	Jul-23 £000	Aug-23 £000	Sep-23 £000	Oct-23 £000	Nov-23 £000	Dec-23 £000	Jan-24 £000	Feb-24 £000	Mar-24 £000	Total £000
Consultants	101	191	215	175	218	77	174	151	196	287	252	502	2,537
NHS Infrastructure Support	(10)	22	33	22	49	34	39	38	5	17	11	13	274
Other Scientific / Therapeutic	(4)	12	11	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Registered Nursing (Qualified)	(57)	243	61	17	50	365	285	229	151	351	224	221	2,142
Healthcare Support Workers	(55)	96	67	137	(8)	40	41	28	1	16	13	72	449
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>5,428</b>

#### Agency by Staff Group 2024-25

Staff Type	Apr-24 £000	May-24 £000	Jun-24 £000	Jul-24 £000	Aug-24 £000	Sep-24 £000	Oct-24 £000	Nov-24 £000	Dec-24 £000	YTD £000
Consultants	(18)	261	277	185	236	182	279	171	94	1,667
NHS Infrastructure Support	5	3	1	0	0	2	0	(2)	0	9
Registered Nursing (Qualified)	64	54	29	32	24	26	21	19	25	295
Healthcare Support Workers	9	88	0	0	2	1	0	0	5	106
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2,077</b>