

Request title: Agency Doctor & Nurse Spend Bank Hol 23rd- 25th May 2015

Date of Response: 28th August 2015

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

1. How much money was spent by your trust on agency doctors over the Bank Holiday weekend 23rd – 25th May 2015 (00:00 23rd May – 23:59 25th May)
The Trust is not able to answer this question, please see the reasons given below.
2. How much money was spent by your trust on agency doctors over the Bank Holiday weekend 24th – 26th May 2014 (00:00 24th May – 23:59 26th May)
The Trust is not able to answer this question, please see the reasons given below.
3. How much money was spent by your trust on agency doctors over the Bank Holiday weekend 25th – 27th May 2013 (00:00 25th May – 23:59 27th May)
The Trust is not able to answer this question, please see the reasons given below.
4. Please state the highest amount that your trust paid to an agency doctor for a single shift over the Bank Holiday weekend 23rd – 25th May 2015 (00:00 23rd May – 23:59 25th May), and total hours worked on that shift.
The Trust is not able to answer this question, please see the reasons given below.
5. What is the total amount of money your Trust spent on agency doctors and nurses in the financial year 2014-15, and this financial so far.
Financial year 14-15: Nursing agency: £7.63m, Medical Staff agency £561k.
1st April 2015 – 30th June 2015: Nursing agency £1.71m., Medical Staff agency £149k

Reply:

The Trust captures agency spend for doctors through its internal system, Agresso. It does not record separately either the hours worked by an agency doctor nor the weeks in which they work. In order to do this the Trust would need to run a report from the system to obtain all agencies used in that financial year (3 years being requested) and pull and check each invoice for a minimum period of three months after the May Bank Holiday (as agencies can submit an invoice at any time) and create a spread sheet to record the hours and cost for the period the data is being requested for. This process would take approximately 20 minutes per invoice. Given that the Trust receive upwards of 15-20 invoices per month this process would exceed the statutory allowance of 18 hours for the request to be met as set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In addition to this the data would not be fully reliable as agencies can sometimes submit an invoice retrospectively for any missed payment within the full financial year (therefore the check would need to extend to all invoices related to that financial year). Invoices are usually submitted for a payment period of a week at a time and do not always document each day worked but instead a total number of hours worked for that weekly period (this would mean we would not be able to correctly report whether the hours worked related to specific days).