

Request title: Consultants Private Practice When On-Call

Date of Response: 21st September 2015

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

Request

I understand that in some cases consultants are permitted to engage in private practice while on call for the NHS. Can I ask how many consultants in the last two years have been permitted to engage in private practice while on call for your trust, and any relevant details of these arrangements?

Reply:

The Trust can confirm that consultants are permitted to attend private practice whilst on-call, only as long as they are available to attend a Trust emergency, should there be one, within the required timeframe, which is in line with Trust Policy. However, there is no requirement for them to inform the Trust and the Trust does not track this information.

Please see paragraph below which has been extracted from the Trusts Job Planning Policy:

Doctors should ensure that:

- Private commitments, including private on-call duties, are not scheduled during times at which they are scheduled to be working for the NHS.*
- Private patient activity can only be undertaken whilst on call as long as the doctor is available to be consulted immediately and attend the Trust in an emergency within the required time. Overall any private practice in on-call time needs to be activity that does not stop the doctor leaving immediately to attend to NHS duties or the on- call needs to be covered and those arrangements communicated (individual doctor responsibility to organise this).*