

24 April 2017

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By email
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”)

I refer to your emails of 14 and 20 February 2017 in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement. Since 1 April 2016, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority (NHS TDA) are operating as an integrated organisation known as NHS Improvement. For the purposes of this decision, NHS Improvement means Monitor and NHS TDA.

Your request

You made the following request:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act I wish to request the following information.

1) The total approved spend on external consultants (management, financial etc.) during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 (future as well as past and current) and any approved or planned spend for 2017-18. Please break down the spend by company and by reason for the spend.”

In your email of 20 February, you clarified that your request related to spend by both NHS Improvement and any spend by trusts, CCGs or other providers approved by/collated by NHS Improvement.

Decision

NHS Improvement holds some of the information that you have requested.

NHS Improvement spend

Information on expenditure by NHS Improvement, including consultancy spend, is available on our website. Please see our annual accounts for 2014/15 and 2015/16, and our data on specific payments over £25,000. You can find this information using the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitor-annual-report-and-accounts-201415>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitor-annual-report-and-accounts-201516>
<http://www.ntda.nhs.uk/blog/2015/07/21/nhs-trust-development-authority-annual-report-and-accounts-2/>

<http://www.ntda.nhs.uk/blog/2016/07/21/nhs-trust-development-authority-annual-report-and-accounts-201516/>

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-publications/transparency-data/>

This information is reasonably accessible to you by means otherwise than under the FOI Act and is therefore exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act.

In relation to the accounts for 2016/17 and 2017/18, and the transparency data on individual payments from December 2016, these will be published at a future date and are exempt under section 22 of the FOI Act. This information is subject to checking and auditing, and is published in accordance with Government guidance, and in our view it is reasonable not to publish this information in advance and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Spend by other bodies

NHS Improvement does not hold figures for the spend on consultancy by CCGs or providers of NHS services other than NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts.

In relation to trusts, based on the information we have available, spending on consultants amounted to £419m in 2014-15 and £301m in 2015-16. We do not yet have the figures for 2016-17.

NHS Improvement does not hold a full breakdown of the individual items of expenditure by each trust or the companies which were engaged. As part of our procedure for approval of spend on management consultancy in excess of £50,000, we do hold some relevant information on proposed/approved expenditure consultancy. Later this year we will begin to publish, on a quarterly and annual basis, data on the requests put to NHS Improvement (and Monitor and the TDA individually before coming together as NHS Improvement). This will not include details of the companies involved – it should be noted that approval is often sought before procurement, so the identity of the consultants is not known at the time of the approval decision. Trusts publish details of their payments of £25,000 or more, including the names of suppliers as part of the Government's transparency guidelines; you can find this information on individual trust websites. In addition, details of the individual contracts awarded to consultants may be published on Contracts Finder (<https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>) in accordance with relevant Government guidance (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/524351/Guidance_on_transparency_requirements_for_Contracts_Finder.pdf).

Review rights

If you consider that your request for information has not been properly handled or if you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within NHS Improvement of the issue or the decision. A senior member of NHS Improvement's staff, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.


If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to FOI Request Reviews, NHS Improvement, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to nhsi.foi@nhs.net.

Publication

Please note that this letter and the attached information will shortly be published on our website. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the FOI Act is disclosed to the public at large. We will, of course, remove your personal information (e.g. your name and contact details) from the version of the letter published on our website to protect your personal information from general disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Cochrane". Below the signature is a horizontal line with a small flourish at the end.

Murray Cochrane

Head of Resources, Programmes and Co-ordination