

6 December 2017

Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

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E: nhsi.enquiries@nhs.net
W: improvement.nhs.uk

By email

Dear [REDACTED]

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

I refer to your email of 8 November 2017 in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement.

Your request

You made the following request:

- *How much did the NHS spend on agency nursing staff (Band 5 and 6) in tax year 2016/2017. If possible in a monthly table enabling us to differentiate monthly spending*
- *How much does the agency charge the healthcare facilities for covering shifts per hour for Band 5 and 6 Nursing staff on average. During tax year 16/17*
- *How many shifts are covered by agencies a month on average? During tax year 16/17*
- *What percentage of NHS trusts used off framework agencies to cover shift within tax year 16/17.*
- *What are the average payrates for long days and nights (weekdays, sat and Sunday)*

If this information is not available just an overall agency spending should suffice for all sections.

Decision

NHS Improvement holds some of the information that you have requested. NHS Improvement has decided to release the information it holds.

Questions 1 and 2

NHS Improvement does not hold this information as we do not collate information on staff groups by band.

Question 3

NHS Improvement did not collect the volume of agency shifts used until April 2017 and as such NHS Improvement does not hold this information.

Question 4

We can confirm that 95% of trusts used off-framework agencies at some stage in the 16/17 financial year.

Question 5

NHS Improvement does not hold this information.

NHS Improvement has set the maximum rate that can be charged by an agency and these caps are published on our website, link below:

https://improvement.nhs.uk/uploads/documents/NHSI_Price_Caps_2017_update.xlsx.

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 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, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Martin Innes

Senior Operational Agency Data and Intelligence Lead