

**Corporate Affairs Directorate**

Freedom of Information Officer  
Old Nurses Home  
Mailpoint 79  
Southampton General Hospital  
Tremona Road  
Southampton  
SO16 6YD

Tel: 023 8120 5079

**To:** Michael McCallion (via email only)  
[request-650777-66d383d2@whatdotheyknow.com]

**Ref:** Freedom of Information Request  
**Our Ref:** FOI 6643  
**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Michael,

I am writing in response to your email dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) regarding the international recruitment of nurses.

**Q1** *Can you please tell me if the trust used agencies to recruit international nurses during 2019?*

**A1** **Yes**

**Q2** *If the trust did use agencies, can you tell me how many nurses were recruited and how much was spent recruiting overseas nurses via both framework and off framework agencies?*

**A2** **Yes in 2019 we recruited the following via agencies:**

**Off framework – 115**  
**Framework - 56**

**Q3** *Can I also have the total cost to recruit one international nurse and what upfront costs the trust incurred?*

**A3** **We can confirm that this information is held by the Trust but we consider it to be exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000: commercial interest. This exemption can be applied when it is felt that disclosure of information would or could prejudice commercial interests. The Trust is in favour of withholding the information since it is in the public interest for the Trust to contract on commercial terms and for partners not to fear that the Trust will disclose commercially sensitive information which could affect their confidence to enter into contracts with the Trust, thus the Trust would potentially be at a disadvantage in negotiating future agreements for these**

For further information on your rights under the Freedom of Information Act please visit our website at <http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/AboutTheTrust/FreedomOfInformation> or the Information Commissioner's Office website at <http://www.ico.gov.uk>

**services reducing our ability to achieve the best possible overall agreements for the Trust and, ultimately, our patients.**

Q4 *Does the Trust have plans to recruit nurses internationally during 2020?*

A4 **Yes**

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request will be held on a database held by the Trust.

With regards,

**Freedom of Information Officer**

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

*For further information on your rights under the Freedom of Information Act please visit our website at <http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/AboutTheTrust/FreedomOfInformation> or the Information Commissioner's Office website at <http://www.ico.gov.uk>*