



Department of Health

03/02/2015

DE00000915775

Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your request of 27 January 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

"I am researching the trend in temporary staffing spend within the NHS.

If the information is held, please can you provide me with a breakdown of the total agency/contract staff spend per NHS trust for the previous 5 financial years? If data is not held for any past years, please provide information for those that you are able to."

I can confirm that the Department holds some information relevant to your request.

This information is not available for all the years or categories requested. The net amount spent in 2013/14 on Contract and Agency staff by NHS Trusts is £1,209,134k. The breakdown of this can be seen in the attached table.

For the first time, the Department collected unaudited financial data from NHS Trusts for 2013 /14 Contract and Agency staffing costs and income to give a net expenditure figure. The data was collected on the NHS Summarisation Schedules that form the basis of the Department's Annual Report and Accounts, and was published in the Departmental Accounts.

The figure for 13/14 Contract and Agency spend staff for all NHS Trusts reported in the published accounts under the heading "Temporary/Agency" (Table C12, page 197) is £1,184,479k. This is understated as one organisation did not provide the data, so the attached table shows the higher figure of £1,209,134k.

We asked existing 13/14 NHS Trusts to also provide prior year figures (12/13) for Contract and Agency staff in the NHS Summarisation Schedules. These figures have not been included in the answer as the data provided only

includes information from existing 13/14 NHS Trusts, rather than data from all 12/13 Trusts.

The prior year figures included in Table C12 of the published accounts have also not been included in the answer, as they were compiled on a different basis to the 13/14 figures. The figures published for 2012/13 for NHS Trusts are based on non-permanently employed staff which is defined as “others engaged on the objectives of the organisation and will include staff on inward secondment or loan from other organisations, bank/agency/temporary staff and contract staff.” This reconciles to the figures for those organisations in note 3 (Staff Costs 2012/13), whereas the 2013-14 figures are compiled for the first time under a stricter definition of contingent labour.

Where an NHS Trust obtains Foundation Trust status part way through any year, the data provided is only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS Trust.

In the guidance that accompanied the data collection, the definition of Contract / Agency staff is: “Agency” employee payments for the employment of staff where the staff remain employees of the agency and “Contract staff” where the NHS trust has control over numbers and qualifications of staff (in contrast to a service obtained under contract) .

Excluded from the “Agency/Contract” category are the costs of staff recharged by another organisation where no element of overhead is included i.e. where the staff costs are shared between the NHS Trust and other bodies; staff on secondment or on loan from other organisations; amounts payable to contractors in respect of the provision of services (for example, cleaning or security).

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
Room 520
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Graham Sale

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

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