

Leighton Hospital
Middlewich Road
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 4QJ

12/07/2011

Mr. Carl Tinker

Ref: 969

Email: request-74987-9d74b9ce@whatdotheyknow.com

Freedom of Information Requests: Nursing Staff.

Dear Mr. Tinker

Thank you for your requests for information. Under the Freedom of Information Act (the Act). I have dealt with your revised request under the terms of the Act. This completes the Trust response to your three recent requests in regard to staffing.

The information you have requested is attached to this letter and has been sent by E-Mail.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Pickup
Information Governance Manager
On Behalf of

Patrick Wilkinson
Governance Manager

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Integrated Governance Department
Leighton Hospital
Crewe CW1 4 QJ

Direct Line: 01270 273350

email: <mailto:patrick.wilkinson@mcht.nhs.uk>

Freedom of Information Request - 953

Your revised request regarding Nursing Staff was as follows:-

I am happy to accept this information for the period 2010 (Jan - Dec) or the financial year Apr 2010 - Mar 2011, which ever is easier for you is fine.

Please can we have the same information provided for the nursing side for the following categories?

RNLD - Registered Learning Disability Nurse
CPN - Community psychiatric nurse
RMN - Registered Mental Nurse
RGN - Registered General Nurse
RSCN- Registered Sick Children's Nurse

1.Total Agency spend in the categories listed above (broken down into each category)

2.Number of temporary agency staff on placement within the Trust per job type (listed above)

Comment from earlier correspondence :-

I appreciate in your recent response that you mentioned that it would be either very difficult or not possible to separate RGN -Registered General Nurses and RSCN- Registered Sick Children's Nurses from the general category of Nurses. As this is the case we are happy to accept the requested information to be provided without RGN's and RSCN's being separated from the general category of nurses.

3.Which agencies were used to recruit in the categories listed above (broken down into each category - if this is possible)

In response to the above :-

1. The total spend on agency nurses at the Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust during the 2010/11 financial year was £1,957,000

2. The Trust does not hold the information you have requested in such a way to make this easily identifiable and retrievable. In order to comply with your request an extremely large exercise would be required to acquire this information. It is estimated that this would take far in excess of the 'appropriate limit' of 18 hours as laid down in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 and as such is exempt under S12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 12(1) states that:

"Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit."

Under Section 16 of the Act the Trust is under obligation to provide advice and assistance which may help to bring your request within the appropriate limit. However, the Trust estimates that it is not possible to reduce the information to fall inside the appropriate limit. The Trust has therefore, in this instance, declined to provide the requested information in the interests of Trust resources. This letter should be seen as a refusal notice regarding this part of your request.

3. The following agencies were used by the Trust to recruit agency nursing staff during the 2010/11 financial year:-

AHP LTD
Allied Healthcare (UK) Ltd
Apex Nursing & Care Services
Arrows Group Health Care
British Nursing Association
Castlerock
Confido Recruitment Ltd
DRC Locums
Frontline Medical
Healthcare Capital UK LTD
ID Medical
Jane Lewis
Mayfair
Medacs
MedicsPro Ltd
Meridian Health
MSI Group
Nurse Plus
Nursing Services UK
Orion Nursing HCL
Orion Locums Ltd
Prestige Nursing
Pulse
Swanstaff
Team 24
Thornbury
Xcel Nursing Services Ltd

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to appeal. In the first instance, please contact the Trust's Governance Manager who will initiate an internal review. The Trust will then review its decision and respond to your appeal, as soon as possible, but within 20 working days.

If, following the review, you are still not satisfied with the way we have handled your request, or if you are unhappy with our response, then under Section 50 of the Act, you are entitled to appeal to the Information Commissioner: -

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