

21 July 2016

Mr J Taylor

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Dear Mr J Taylor

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request Ref: NGFOI 16/17: 174

Thank you for your request for information received at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust (NGH) on 24/0616.

I am pleased that we are now able to provide you with a response to your request as shown below.

You requested:

- 1) *Does the organisation use an external provider for VAT advisory services? If so please state the name of the organisation used? (E.g. Ernst Young, Berthold Bauer, Liaison, CRS, KPMG etc.)?*
- 2) *Please state the contract start and end date.*
- 3) *Please confirm the total value of VAT recovered by the provider in 2015/16*
 - a. *Please state the total value of under-claims recovered*
 - b. *Please state the total value of over-claims recovered*
- 4) *Please state the total amount spent by the organisation for these services in 2015/16*
- 5) *Did the organisation use an external provider to re-review VAT recovered in the last financial year (15/16)?*
 - a. *If so please state the name of the company used.*
- 6) *Please state the total amount of additional VAT recovered by the provider in 2015/16*
- 7) *Please state the total amount spent by the organisation for these services*
- 8) *Please state the total number of Accounts Payable invoices processed by the organisation in the last financial year (15/16)*
- 9) *Please state the total value of Accounts Payable invoices in the last financial year (15/16)*
- 10) *In the last five years, please state the name(s) of all external organisation(s) used to review AP and identify and recover erroneous payments, and the period(s) reviewed by each.*
- 11) *Please state the total value of moneys recovered by each provider in the period(s) reviewed.*
- 12) *Please state the total amount paid to any external parties for this review work.*

Response from Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust (NGH):

1. CRS from 01/06/15, previously Berthold Bauer
2. 1.6.15 to 31.5.18
3. We are unable to provide this information under Part II - Section 43 - Commercial Interests of the Freedom of Information Act. There is no intention towards concealment on the part on Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust.

Your request for this information has been given careful consideration, however, the Trust is not able to give you the information because it is exempt from disclosure.

Exemption Description	Reason / Explanation
Section 43(2) Commercial Interests	To provide the information as requested, would be disclosing information which is commercially sensitive and could endanger the commercial interests of the Trust.

In relation to this exemption (known as a 'Prejudice' based exemption), as required, we have applied the Public Interest Test and have found that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

4. Berthold Bauer- £27K CRS- £15K.
5. Yes, CRS reviewed Berthold Bauer's work for the first 10 months of 15/16.
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. 95,000
9. (15/16) £124M
10. Fiscal Software with no formal review process in place.
11. N/A
12. N/A

We hope that you will find the information provided both informative and helpful. We also hope that you will be satisfied with the manner in which we have dealt with your Freedom of Information request. If not, please do let me know or you may ask for an independent internal review under the Freedom of Information complaints procedure at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months from the date the date of this letter. Please see the attached leaflet.

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you may make an approach to the Information Commissioner as outlined in the attached leaflet.

This completes the Trust response to your request, but please note:

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If you have any questions about this process please contact:

*Information Governance Manager
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NN1 5BD*

Tel.(direct dial): 01604 523881

E-mail – foi@ngh.nhs.uk

If there is anything you need clarification on, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above address or if by e-mail to foi@ngh.nhs.uk quoting the reference NGFOI 16/17:174 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Kehinde Okesola

**Information Governance Manager
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust**

Enc.