

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.23.3129
Date Received: 11th September 2023

Information Requested:

Sourced Staffing Arrangements

- 1a. Do you have a master vendor (MV) or neutral vendor (NV) arrangement in place for sourcing agency staff? If so, please state which arrangement is in place
- 1b. What is the name of the MV/NV provider(s) and what staffing groups do they source? E.g. medical, nursing etc
- 1c. As part of the arrangement, is any technology provided by the supplier to help manage the procurement of agency staff?
- 1d. Please provide the contract start and end date for the supplier (dd/mm/yy)

For questions 1a – 1d The Trust believes that this information is publicly available on the website at <https://eput.nhs.uk/media/p5rdwtit/eput-foi-23-3005.pdf> and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means):

Direct Engagement

- 2a. Does the organisation use a third party to provide a Direct Engagement/Outsourced Employment Solution? (This is where the NHS organisation sources agency staff via a recruitment agency but hold a direct contract between the organisation and the worker - there is often VAT savings associated to this employment model)

Yes

- 2b. What is the name of the Direct Engagement (DE)/Outsourced Employment supplier (e.g 247Time/Allocate, Plus Us, Retinue, Liaison etc.)

Plus Us

- 2c. Under the DE/Outsourced Employment arrangement, which staffing groups are managed? For example; Medical, Admin, Scientific staff. Please list all applicable

Doctors, Allied Health Professionals, Non-Medical and Non-Clinical

- 2d. Please provide the contract start and end date for the DE supplier (dd/mm/yy)

Start date: 17/10/2021

End date 16/10/2023 – Option to extend by up to two periods of 12 months

2f. How much did the organisation pay the supplier in 22/23 (April 2022 to March 2023) for the provision of the direct engagement service?

The Trust believes that this information is of commercial interest and may prejudice either the supplier or the Trust. The Trust is therefore applying Section 43 of the Act (Commercial Interests):

Vendor Management System for Nurse Agency

3a. Does the organisation use a third-party Vendor Management System for the supply of nurse agency staff?

N/A

3b. Who supplies your Vendor Management System? E.g. Allocate, NHSP etc.

N/A

3c. Please provide the contract start and end date for this provider (dd/mm/yy)

N/A

Bank Management

4a. Please name the technology provider used to manage the supply of your bank staff, inclusive of any outsourced or managed arrangements (i.e. NHSP, Bank Partners, Allocate, Liaison, Patchwork, Locum's Nest etc). If more than one supplier is used, please name all suppliers

N/A

4b. Please name the staffing group each provider is used for e.g. medical, nursing, AHPs, admin and clerical

N/A

4c. Please provide the contract start and end date for each bank supplier (dd/mm/yy)

N/A

4d. How much did the organisation pay the supplier(s) in 22/23 for the provision of the bank service?

N/A

Applied Exemption

Section 21: Information accessible to applicant by other means.

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) Information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) Information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

Section 43 (Commercial Interests):

- (1) Information is exempt information if it constitutes a trade secret
 - (2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to; prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)
 - (3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice the interests mentioned in subsection (2)
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Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>