

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-662

28 September 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

I'm writing to request information from NHS trusts in England about how much was spent on locum and agency doctors during the walkouts held by both consultants and junior doctors over the past 12 months.

Please provide answers for each timeframe and separate each one clearly in your response.

These timeframes are:

- (A) Junior doctor strike – 13, 14 and 15 March 2023**
- (B) Junior doctor strike – 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 April**
- (C) Junior doctor strike – 14, 15, 16 and 17 June**
- (D) Junior doctor strike – 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 July**
- (E) Junior doctor strike – 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 August**
- (F) Consultant strike – 20 and 21 July**
- (G) Consultant strike – 24, 25 and 26 August**

For each given timeframe could you please provide the following information.

1. How many staff walked out as a result of industrial action over each period and what percentage of your junior doctor/consultant staff did this equate to. IE – 150 junior doctor staff walked out during 13, 14 and 15 March dates out of 200 junior doctor staff would be 75%.

Date of strike action	Number of junior doctors on strike	%
13/03/23	295	77.6
14/03/23	272	71.6
15/03/23	277	70.3
11/04/23	271	83.6
12/04/23	296	86.5
13/04/23	261	83.7
14/04/23	226	66.9

14/06/23	228	61.3
15/06/23	212	56.8
16/06/23	193	52.9
13/07/23	194	60.1
14/07/23	190	59.4
15/07/23	74	54.0
16/07/23	65	47.8
17/07/23	169	52.5
11/08/23	182	54.8
12/08/23	54	43.5
13/08/23	50	40.7
14/08/23	146	42.6
20/07/23 (Cons)	20	7.3
21/07/23 (Cons)	37	14.5
24/08/23 (Cons)	18	5.8
25/08/23 (Cons)	22	7.3

2. How much did the trust spend on locum/agency workers during each period specifically as a result of industrial action. If this specific figure is not held, please provide the locum and agency spend for the previous year for each relevant timeframe. IE 13, 14 and 15 March 2023 vs 13, 14 and 15 March 2022.

Please note that the costs below are for the entire month and it is not possible to split them by date. The difference in cost between periods is not necessarily entirely attributable to industrial action because they will also be influenced by other factors, for example, service developments, efforts to reduce waiting lists, and sickness.

	March 2022	April 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	March 2023	April 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023
Agency & Locum Doctors	£2,522,000	£2,323,000	£1,992,000	£1,637,000	£2,086,000	£2,414,000	£2,608,000	£2,498,000	£2,697,000	£3,110,000

3. Did the Trust allow doctors who were taking part in industrial action to take on locum shifts at the same trust during strike periods when they were not scheduled to work?
Yes

4. If the answer to the above question was yes, (a) How many doctors did this during each period

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day

period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

and (b) How much did the Trust spend on paying its own doctors for these shifts during each period?

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, 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:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team

