

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 21-105

24 February 2021

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

1. You have provided me with the expenses on translation and interpreting, thank you. Can you please clarify whether the interpreting spending includes British Sign Language (BSL)? If yes, do you have any data on the spending on BSL for those years so I can subtract it from the totals?

The costs we provided did not include sign language as this "Please do not include data regarding the spending on services for the deaf and blind (such as sign language interpreting or Braille)" was in the original question.

2. Do you have any data on the languages covered? Just to clarify, I do not need a breakdown of costs per language, just a list of languages that you had requests for over those five years. Any data you can share would be greatly appreciated.

Due to changes in interpreting suppliers, we do not hold a reliable breakdown of language usage over these years so instead we are providing our top 10 languages based on data from April 2020 – December 2020:

1. Arabic
2. Somali
3. Polish
4. Romanian
5. Bengali
6. Portuguese
7. Urdu
8. Punjabi
9. Spanish
10. Bulgarian

3. I am afraid my second question was not clear and I apologise for that. I would be

interested in the Expenditure Budget (including financing) of your organisation for each of those financial years. It is probably something like a few hundred million pounds per annum. Can you help with this, please?

We do not budget for or collect the costs in the details described below. We would only be able to identify the costs of using translators – through our bank staff or via invoices paid to other bodies. This would take more than the 18 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:

Director of Corporate Governance
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
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**