

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-696

4 October 2024

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 am writing to formally submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request concerning the procurement and award of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework for providing temporary nurses and clinical staffing. I kindly request your assistance in addressing the following inquiries:

1. Compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015: Please provide information on how the Trust ensures that the awarding of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework adheres to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

The Trust has not utilised RM6281 for any contract awards.

2. Non-discrimination and Fairness: How does the Trust ensure that it does not discriminate or act unfairly towards suppliers when selecting contractors under this framework?

Not applicable, RM6281 not utilised.

3. Supplier Invitation: Does the Trust invite all approved suppliers under the framework to bid or supply services, as stipulated by the framework's rules?

Yes, all suppliers that are registered on any of the CCS Frameworks (and associated Lots therein) must be invited to submit a bid where a further competition is run.

If so, could you provide evidence or examples of this process in practice?

We have recently launched a tender that is currently out to market where they have elected to utilise the CCS Workforce Improvement Services Framework reference RM6163, where 11 suppliers are registered and where all have indeed been invited to submit a bid.

4. Supplier Selection Process: Please outline the legal justification the Trust uses when selecting certain suppliers while excluding others under the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework.

Not applicable, RM6281 not utilised.

5. Compliance with Selection Criteria: Could you explain the process by which suppliers are selected under the framework, particularly concerning ensuring compliance with the selection criteria set out in the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015?

Not applicable, RM6281 not utilised.

6. Further Competition Process: Could you describe the process your Trust follows for further competition under the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework? Specifically, do you use direct awards, or do you invite suppliers for further competition for Lot 1? Please provide evidence to support your response.

Not applicable, RM6281 not utilised.

7. Evidence of Compliance: Kindly provide any documentation or evidence demonstrating how the Trust ensures compliance with the aforementioned regulations and framework rules when awarding contracts under Lot 1 for the provision of temporary nurses and clinical staffing.

Not applicable, RM6281 not utilised.

8. Legal Queries and Proceedings: Please provide contact details (department and individual, if available) for submitting legal queries or initiating legal proceedings related to procurement processes under this framework.

Any queries should be submitted to Procurement@nbt.nhs.uk

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
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust