

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-849

6 November 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information about the usage and supplier management of the RM6281 Workforce Alliance framework within your Trust. Please respond to the following questions:

1. Supplier Addition (Lot 1 under RM6281):7

o How many approved suppliers have been added to the Trust's supplier list for Lot 1 under RM6281 from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?

2. Framework Usage Confirmation:

o Does the Trust currently use the RM6281 framework or Total Workforce Solutions HTE for staffing requirements?

3. Preferred Supplier List (PSL):

o What are the names of the agencies on your PSL that supply agency staff under Lot 1 RM6281 framework or Total Workforce Solution HTE, and what tier is each agency assigned to?

4. Shift Booking Above NHSE Capped Rate:

o How many shifts were booked above the NHS England capped rate from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?

5. Spending on Off-Framework Agencies:

o What was the total spend on off-framework agencies from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?

o What are the names of these agencies, and what reasons are there for their continued use despite NHS England's restrictions?

6. Spend on Approved Framework Suppliers:

o What was the total spend on approved framework suppliers between 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?

o In which area of specialty within Lot 1 does the Trust require a supplier that can book shifts within the capped rate to avoid breaches?

o If applicable, what are the reasons for breaches of the capped rates for shifts?

7. Framework Supplier Addition:

o Would the Trust add an approved framework supplier immediately if it could help reduce breaches of the NHSE capped rate?

8. Spending on Framework Agencies:

o How much was spent on framework agencies from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024?

9. Supplier Selection Process:

o Does the Trust use Direct Award or Further Competition to select suppliers?

o What criteria are used to select suppliers, and is the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) principle applied?

10. Audit Trail for Contract Awards:

o Could you provide a documented audit trail showing how contract awards were made, particularly for direct awards? This documentation should align with RM6281's Framework Schedule 7, which requires clear justification and transparency in awarding contracts.

11. Neutral Vendor Information (if outsourced):

o If a neutral or master vendor is used, please provide the organisation's name, contact person, email, and office contact number.

12. Further Competition and Framework Adherence:

o What was the date of the last further competition conducted?

o Has the Trust fully transitioned to using RM6281 and followed the guidance in Schedule 7 for supplier selection?

o Can you confirm adherence to the MEAT guidance provided in the framework?

13. Agency Spend Clarification:

o We have reviewed your organisation's FOI website but could not locate the requested information. If any part of these questions is unclear or incomplete, please provide a full response or reach out for clarification.

We are now in the process of moving to an official tender for the future delivery of this service and associated contract and we are currently unable to release any information regarding this until after the award has been approved. By releasing any information during this period will unduly bias a potential bidder over the rest of the supplier pool and would be in conflict with the Public Contract Regulations 2015. This is commercially sensitive information and will not be shared at an organisational level. Section 43 of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. 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
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust