

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-112024-0001222

Date: 13.1.25

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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

- 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? - HTE – Workforce Alliance not used.

2. Framework Usage Confirmation:

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

3. Preferred Supplier List (PSL):

- 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? - All who have applied and have been approved by HTE.

4. Shift Booking Above NHSE Capped Rate:

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

5. Spending on Off-Framework Agencies:

What was the total spend on off-framework agencies from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024? Nil
What are the names of these agencies, and what reasons are there for their continued use despite NHS England's restrictions? - n/a

6. Spend on Approved Framework Suppliers:

- What was the total spend on approved framework suppliers between 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024? - £1,036,924
- In which area of specialty within Lot 1 (medical) does the Trust require a supplier that can book shifts within the capped rate to avoid breaches? - All
- If applicable, what are the reasons for breaches of the capped rates for shifts? - Sickness and vacancy in acute high risk areas such as Paeds.

7. Framework Supplier Addition:

- Would the Trust add an approved framework supplier immediately if it could help reduce breaches of the NHSE capped rate? - We have a broad agreement which includes all suppliers so this might not be applicable if we cascade our shifts to all suppliers.
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8. Spending on Framework Agencies:

- How much was spent on framework agencies from 1st July, 2024 to 30th October 2024? - £1,036,924

9. Supplier Selection Process:

- Does the Trust use Direct Award or Further Competition to select suppliers? - Yes Direct Award to all suppliers on the framework
- What criteria are used to select suppliers, and is the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) principle applied? - If all suppliers used, this is not applicable, if a PSL this would have been determined internally but with no commitment so can use all suppliers.

10. Audit Trail for Contract Awards:

- 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.
- As above

11. Neutral Vendor Information (if outsourced):

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

12. Further Competition and Framework Adherence:

- What was the date of the last further competition conducted? - n/a
- Has the Trust fully transitioned to using RM6281 and followed the guidance in Schedule 7 for supplier selection? - n/a
- Can you confirm adherence to the MEAT guidance provided in the framework? - n/a

13. Agency Spend Clarification:

- 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.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
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DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

FOI/REF FOI-

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**