

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/351

Temporary Staff Management

1. Sourced Staffing Arrangements

- a. Do you have a master vendor (MV) or neutral vendor (NV) arrangement in place for sourcing agency staff? If so, please state which arrangement is in place**

Yes, a Master Vendor agreement

- b. What is the name of the MV/NV provider(s) and what staffing groups do they source? e.g. medical, nursing etc.**

Medacs Healthcare – Medical, Allied Health Professionals (AHP)

- c. As part of the arrangement, is any technology provided by the supplier to help manage the procurement of agency staff?**

Yes

- d. Please provide the contract start and end date for the supplier (dd/mm/yy)**

08.22 – 08.24

2. Direct Engagement

- a. Does the organisation use a third party to provide a Direct Engagement/Outsourced Employment Solution? (This is where the NHS organisation sources agency staff via a recruitment agency but hold a direct contract between the organisation and the worker - there is often VAT savings associated to this employment model).**

Yes

- b. What is the name of the Direct Engagement (DE)/Outsourced Employment supplier (e.g. 247Time/Allocate, PlusUs, Retinue, Liaison etc.)**

PWC & Vantage

- c. Under the DE/Outsourced Employment arrangement, which staffing groups are managed? For example; Medical, Admin, Scientific staff. Please list all applicable**

Medical and AHP

- d. Please provide the contract start and end date for the DE supplier (dd/mm/yy)**

08.22 – 08.24

- e. How much did the organisation pay the supplier in 21/22 (April 2021 to March 2022) for the provision of the direct engagement service?

AHP Vantage £13,283

PWC – £80,099.76 including VAT

3. Vendor Management System for Nurse Agency

- a. Does the organisation use a third-party Vendor Management System for the supply of nurse agency staff?

Yes.

- b. Who supplies your Vendor Management System? E.g. Allocate, NHSP etc.

Currently migrating to Allocate, using both Rosterpro and Allocate at present

- c. Please provide the contract start and end date for this provider (dd/mm/yy)

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information. Under Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, the UHB can inform you that the contract commenced Feb 21.

4. Bank Management

- a. Please name the technology provider used to manage the supply of your bank staff, inclusive of any outsourced or managed arrangements (i.e. NHSP, Bank Partners, Allocate, Liaison, Patchwork, Locum's Nest etc). If more than one supplier is used, please name all suppliers

Medacs Healthcare

- b. Please name the staffing group each provider is used for e.g. medical, nursing, AHPs, admin and clerical

Medics

- c. Please provide the contract start and end date for each bank supplier (dd/mm/yy)

08.22 – 08.24

- d. How much did the organisation pay the supplier(s) in 21/22 for the provision of the bank service?

After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers this information to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 43) Commercial Interests. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if:

- the information requested is a trade secret, or

- release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the UHB when deciding whether to disclose information because it considered that in doing so there could be a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of both Cardiff University and the UHB. As this is a qualified exemption, the UHB is required to complete a public interest test in deciding whether it is in the public's interest to withhold or disclose the information.

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of spending of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

Against disclosure: It has been established that releasing the information sought under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with suppliers. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in suppliers not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body (as upheld in ICO decision notice FS50473543 ICO v Royal Marsden Hospital Trust).

Decision: The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the supplier to which this information concerns. The UHB believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.