

## Consulting Expenditure

Reference Number: RDF1767-23

Date of Response: 05/09/2023

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

1. For the following financial years, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22, what was the total amount (in £) spent by the Trust on consulting services?

	Annual spend on consulting services (£)	Annual spend on consulting services (£)
1. For the following years, what did the total spend per year on consulting services?	Eastern Service	Northern Service
i. 2017-18	2,036,087	1,442
ii. 2018-19	1,005,929	57,918
iii. 2019-20	1,051,213	185,959
iii. 2020-21	1,479,488	19,396
iii. 2021-22	753,509	12,844

2. Could you provide a list of projects/contracts that have been supported/led by a consultancy business for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22, detailing the following information for each:

- a) The name of the vendor/consulting firm that was awarded the project/contract
- b) The nature of the project/contract (choose from 'Strategy', 'Operations', 'Technology', 'Other', or 'Unknown')
- c) The value of the project/contract?

The Trust is applying **Section 12 (1) – Time/Cost (over 18hrs work)** to question 2.:

The Trust is unable to respond to question 2. The Trust has considered your request, however to provide you with the information requested would entail data

extraction and manipulation (that would be needed to cover 5 years that would be required, from both Northern and Eastern services) would take over 18 hours. To try to respond within the allocated 18 hours would not be achievable as this only allows under 2 hours per site per year. There would be a significant amount of consultancy input particularly in IMT and Estates due to the need for technical input. And the request does not give any materiality indication.

To carry out this work would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting that information.