

Title: External Consultancy Services

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Reference Number: RDF1269-23

Date of Response: 20/02/23

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

*Royal Devon University Healthcare Foundation Trust*

*I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the answers to the following questions:*

1. *How much money was spent on external consultancy services to help improve hospital processes and efficiency for the tax years 2012 to 2022?*

Answer: The Trust can confirm that it holds the information 'total spent on external consultancy services' that you have requested. This information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act because it is reasonably accessible to you via our Annual Report publication.

The Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NDHT) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (RD&E) which merged on 1 April 2022 to become the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, their respective annual reports can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/reports-and-trust-documents/>

We are unable to separately identify consultancy expenditure on improving hospital processes and efficiency for the tax years 2012 to 2022, this information is not separately recorded by the Trust.

2. *Has your organisation directly employed during the period of 2012 to 2022 data analysts and or statisticians (not through consultancy services nor through academic access)?*
  - a. *Statisticians: Yes or No*
  - b. *Data analysts: Yes or No*

Answer: a. No. b. Yes.

3. *If yes, to question 2, did they facilitate non-research hospital governance and improvement activity and/or data analytics for the NHS?*

Answer: Yes.

4. *Does your hospital currently have an improvement/development team?*
  - a. *No*
  - b. *Yes, and it does not include data analysts or statisticians*
  - c. *Yes, and it includes data analysts or statisticians.*

Answer: Improvement and development is embedded across all services and staff groups. The Trust has a Transformation Team which does not include data analysts or statisticians, however the Trust has a number of services and departments that do employ data analysts.

5. *Which group of employees carries out the majority of governance and improvement projects? a) doctors, b) nurses, c) doctors and nurses, d) a specific team.*

Answer: Governance and improvement is embedded across all services and staff groups, therefore the response would be a, b, c and d.

*If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.*