

Title

Cost of Strike Cover

Reference Number: RDF1474-23

Date of Response: 23/06/2023

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 1st 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).

Please could you tell me how much money your trust spent on bank and/or agency and/or locum staff – and/or non-contractual rates to consultants or other medical staff employed by the trust – to cover junior doctors' shifts during industrial action by the British Medical Association on:

A) March 13-15 2023

and

B) April 11-15 2023

Please provide as much detail as possible on the staff category (i.e. agency or bank), department of the hospital and the day(s) of employment.

The Trust has looked into your request, however the Trust applies a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act for this information. In doing so we apply the following Exemption:

Section 12 (1) – Time/Cost (over 18hrs work)

The Trust has considered your request, however, to provide you with the information requested on this FOI would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources. _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.

The Trust is not able to respond to this request, as within the Trust staff would need to go through both our medical agency system and all medical invoices to identify which may relate to strike action. However, the data will not be accurate as invoices will not identify reason for cover. In addition to this we would need to check through over 130 ESARs to identify manually any shifts paid at enhanced rate due to strike action only. This therefore would require manual checking of several hundred records through multiple systems which still would not give an accurate picture.

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.