

Title

Consultant Workforce programmed activities

Reference Number: RDF1480-23

Date of Response: 22/05/2023

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).

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following workforce information for your Trust for each of the following pay years: 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23: Where it is not possible to provide this information going all the way back to December 2018, please provide the data as far back as is possible.

1. The consultant workforce expressed in headcount (average of the monthly totals during each year).
2. The consultant workforce expressed in whole time or full time equivalent (WTE/FTE), where WTE/FTE reflects all programmed activities undertaken by consultants, including additional programmed activities (average of the monthly totals during each year).

By programmed activities, we mean the unit used by hospitals to plan consultant work.

- For avoidance of doubt, this is different to the FTE figure routinely published in the NHS Digital NHS Workforce Statistics (<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-workforce-statistics>), where individual consultants contributing to that figure can only take up to a value of 1 FTE, even where they are working more than full-time.
3. The total number of all programmed activities (PAs) performed by consultants during each of the stated years.
 4. The total number of additional programmed activities (APA's) performed by consultants during each of the stated years. By additional programmed activities, we mean programmed activities that are additional to those in consultant main contracts (i.e. those above programmed activities above 10 per week, in the case of a full-time consultant).

Please see attached Excel sheet for responses to the above questions 1 – 4.

5. Total number of programmed activities (PAs) and/or hours of extra contractual work (i.e. excluding APAs, e.g. waiting list initiative activity, additional sessions outside the job plan, etc) performed by consultants during each of the stated years.

6. The total number of programmed activities (PAs) performed by consultants during a.) weekends, b.) weekday evenings, c.) weekday nights, and d.) weekday days during each of the stated years.

a. For avoidance of doubt, we mean:

- i. weekends: any time on a Saturday or a Sunday
- ii. weekday evenings: 7 pm to 11 pm Monday to Friday
- iii. weekday nights: 11 pm to 7 am Monday to Friday
- iv. weekday days: 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Friday
- v.

7. The number of consultant vacancies in the Trust expressed in whole time or full time equivalent (WTE/FTE) at the beginning of each of the stated years.

The Trust is unable to respond to questions 5 , 6 and 7 .

As such, the Trust applies a refusal notice for questions 5,6 and 7. Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act.

In doing so, the Trust applies the following Exemption:

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

The Trust moved to a new system in March 2023. and all historical data is now held in a format that will not allow us to provide the answers to the questions without taking the trust far over the allotted hours to spend on an FOI. The information is not held in any format to trawl and pull data from, as it would need to have a front facing data extraction tool to which we do not have one in flight within the Trust, therefore provision of this type of historic very specific information requested would not be possible.

To provide you with the information requested in questions 5,6 and 7, 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.

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.

1. The consultant workforce expressed in headcount (average of the monthly totals during each year).

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	353	377	396	410	
Northern Devon Healthcare Trust	102	107	110	114	
Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust					554

2. The consultant workforce expressed in whole time or full time equivalent (WTE/FTE), where WTE/FTE reflects all programmed activities undertaken by consultants, including additional programmed activities (average of the monthly totals during each year).

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	331.64	354.68	372.68	384.39	
Northern Devon Healthcare Trust	96.31	99.73	102.85	105.53	
Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust					517.15

3. The total number of all programmed activities (PAs) performed by consultants during each of the stated years.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	170,345	182,526	190,282	194,840	
Northern Devon Healthcare Trust	44,125	47,057	48,060	50,419	
Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust					253,198

4. The total number of additional programmed activities (APA's) performed by consultants during each of the stated years. By additional programmed activities, we mean programmed activities that are additional to those in consultant main contracts (i.e. those above programmed activities above 10 per week, in the case of a full-time consultant).

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	5,043	4,838	4,736	4,669	
Northern Devon Healthcare Trust	1,597	1,588	1,503	1,571	
Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust					6,384