

Outsourced & Insourced Procedures

Reference Number: RDF1631-23

Date of Response: 19/07/2023

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).

Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,

*I would like to get the number of procedures (**volume**) and spend (**£ value**) for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 **by specialty** specifying if:*

Outsourced: defined as an external (third party) provider that has been contracted by your trust, health board or ICB to deliver procedure in **their own facility with their own staff**

Insourced: defined as that external provider that has been contracted to deliver procedures, using **your facilities** (e.g. operating theatre) but **their staff**

List of Specialties

Anaesthesia	Neurology
Cardiology	Neurosurgery
Cardiothoracic surgery	Obstetrics
Dentistry	Oncology
Dermatology	Ophthalmology
Endoscopy	Orthopaedics
ENT	Plastic surgery
Gastroenterology	Radiology
General surgery	Urology
Gynaecology	Vascular surgery
Nephrology	Other

Answer: The Trust has considered your request however the Trust does not have a mechanism for reporting volume. To respond to your question would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources including systems, legacy systems and records; staff would have to identify and verify all invoices for the years requested.

In respect of the question relating to spend value (£), this would also require the manual extraction, identification, analysis and verification of all invoices and expenditure. This would not be a quick task given the volume that has been requested. 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.