

Junior Doctors Strike BMA Rate Card

Reference Number: RDF1479-23

Date of Response: 13/06/23

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 Sir/Madam,

I would like to request some information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please acknowledge receipt of my request by email.

The questions relate to how much the trust paid consultants during recent industrial action by junior doctors and whether the paid rates in line with the BMA's 'rate card'.

Please answer the following questions:

- 1. How much did the trust spend (£) in total on paying for consultants to carry out non-contractual shifts, or paying for consultants to act down during contractual shifts, required to cover junior doctors' during the seven days of industrial action by junior doctors taken between 13 to 16 March, and 11 to 14 April 2023? Please provide a £ figure for the total.*

Answer: The Trust has considered your request, however to provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources, roster systems, and the review of individual bank and agency invoices to identify staff shifts that covered strikes. There is high probability that shifts may not have been recorded in a manner that would enable them to be identified as requested, deeming the information held to be inaccurate.

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. It is estimated this would take 6-8 days of staff time.

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 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.

2. *Did the trust pay the hourly rates outlined on the BMA rate card for consultants' non-contractual work, during either of the junior doctors' strikes in March or April? Please answer Yes or No.*

Answer: No.

3. *If the trust answered "No" to question 2, what was the maximum hourly rate (£/hour) the trust paid for non-contractual shifts, or for consultants to act down during contractual shifts required to cover junior doctors' shifts during either the March or April junior doctors' strike? If you answered "yes" to question 2, please leave this answer blank.*

Answer: £250/hour for Resident Overnight.

4. *Did the trust pay the hourly rates outlined on the BMA rate card for consultants' non-contractual shifts as of April 2023? Please answer Yes or No.*

Answer: No.

5. *If the trust answered "No" to question 4, what is the maximum hourly rate (£/hour) the trust paid consultants for non-contractual shifts as of April 2023? If the trust answered "yes" to question 4, please leave this answer blank.*

Answer: £200/hour.