

Title

Management Consulting Services

Reference Number: RDF1620-23

Date of Response: 04/07/2023

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).

I am interested in understanding the spending of NHS Trusts on management consulting services in the past five years.

For the purpose of clarity, 'management consulting services' are defined as any external advisory services provided to support decision making and strategic planning, change management, operational efficiency, and other related areas.

Specifically, I am requesting the following information:

- Total expenditure on management consulting services for each year within the past five years within your trust.
- The names of the consulting firms that were contracted, if this does not breach any privacy or contractual clauses.
- The specific areas or projects for which these consulting services were employed.

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. The Trust is unable to respond to the above questions. We only have one account line for consultancy fees and expenditure which is not split out into management consulting services. Trust Finance staff would have to check every transaction within that account code for the last 5 years and check every invoice within, of which there are over 10,804 transactions that the Finance team would need to sort through. This would take us over the 18 hours to answer.

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.