

Date: 04/12/2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/012521 – Travel costs

I've been contacted by a constituent about travel costs at the trust.

I've been asked why the cost of business travel for the financial year 2013/14 was £774,000 and what this covered and, in particular whether this covered car travel or air travel and, if it was the latter, how much.

Can I ask if it's possible to provide these figures or a breakdown please?

The Trust holds a central electronic record of travel expenses in two categories; business travel or miscellaneous expenses, not travel by type.

It should be noted that the cost of business travel for the financial year 2013/2014 of £774,000 includes all of the travel claims from our community staff who provide care in patients homes and community clinics

To retrieve the information broken down as you have requested would involve every individual claim per person would have to be retrieved from paper travel forms. For the Trust to pull all paper travel forms for 2013/2014 and retrieve the specific information requested would take more than the 18 hours of recommended FOI time and therefore the cost limit to provide that information. The Trust will unfortunately be required to use exemption Section 12(1) - Cost Exceeds the Appropriate limit.

The Trust publishes the total cost of business travel, in the public interest, within its Annual Reports under the following link:

<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/annual-report/>

You may also search the Trust's FOI disclosure log under the following link on the Trust website for previous responses regarding expenses:

<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/> by typing in 'expenses' in the search box.