

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Rob Golledge
Date of article	12.06.17
Headline	Consultant paid £3.6k for a shift
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	A consultant at Russells Hall Hospital was paid £3,608 for a single shift, new figures have revealed. The amount was paid on December 4 last year – a Friday – for a 24-hour stint at £150 per hour that included being on call.
Press enquiry	The Express and Star contacted the Trust relating to a Freedom of Information response issued in April regarding spending on locum doctors.

Trust response

COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

To make sure patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled clinicians at all times, we sometimes use locum doctors to cover shortages.

On Sunday 4th December 2016 we had to fill a gap in our acute medicine consultant rota with a locum. The payment for this shift would have included:

- undertaking the daily consultant ward round
- any subsequent medical treatment or intervention required as a result
- being the on-call acute medicine consultant for 24 hours
- taking telephone queries or concerns from the acute medicine on-call team during this period
- any on-call visits to hospital to undertake consultant duties during this period

All requests to fill shifts with locum doctors go through a very stringent process involving senior staff to ensure the cover is needed and appropriate. Locum spending is monitored locally by individual departments and the Board of Directors receives monthly reports on the use of locums.

We have recently reviewed our processes around the use of locum doctors to make them even more robust in order to reduce spending and make the system more efficient.

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For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications and Staff Engagement Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email communications@dgh.nhs.uk