

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-092024-0001107

Date: 23/09/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

1. Direct Award Method:

- Has your Trust employed the direct award method for sourcing workers or small groups of workers under the RM6281 framework? If so, please provide evidence demonstrating that the selected suppliers offered the most economically advantageous terms in accordance with the framework's guidelines.
- What measures does your Trust implement to ensure transparency and fairness in direct award decisions, including maintaining a clear audit trail?

2. Further Competition:

- Has your Trust used the further competition process for awarding contracts where adjustments to the framework terms were necessary or where commercial benefits could be achieved? Please provide documentation detailing:
 - The identification of the relevant lot.
 - Invitations sent to all capable suppliers.
 - Evaluation criteria used to determine the most economically advantageous tender.
 - Evidence of a fair and transparent evaluation process.

3. Neutral or Master Vendor:

If your Trust utilizes a neutral or master vendor to manage temporary staffing, how do you ensure these vendors comply with the framework's requirements, including the Public Contracts Regulations 2015? Please provide evidence of compliance with the framework's rules for transparency, fairness, and economic advantage.

- What processes are in place to monitor and audit the actions of neutral or master vendors?

4. Supplier Selection and Exclusion:

Please explain how your Trust lawfully selects certain suppliers while excluding others under the RM6281 framework.

- What justifications are used for these decisions, and how do you ensure compliance with the framework and procurement regulations?

5. Processes for Supplier Selection:

Could you outline the process your Trust follows when selecting suppliers for temporary clinical and healthcare

staff under RM6281? This should include the decision-making steps for choosing between direct award, further competition, or engaging a neutral/master vendor.

- Please provide contact details for the department responsible for handling legal queries related to procurement under the framework.

6. Additional Information:

- The total number of agencies listed under Lot 1 and the rates at which they supply their services.
- The name of the master or neutral vendor managing shift allocation.
- If your Trust is not using the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework, please specify which framework is currently in use.

Response

1. Direct Award Method:

- Has your Trust employed the direct award method for sourcing workers or small groups of workers under the RM6281 framework? If so, please provide evidence demonstrating that the selected suppliers offered the most economically advantageous terms in accordance with the framework’s guidelines.

No

- What measures does your Trust implement to ensure transparency and fairness in direct award decisions, including maintaining a clear audit trail?

N/A

2. Further Competition:

- Has your Trust used the further competition process for awarding contracts where adjustments to the framework terms were necessary or where commercial benefits could be achieved? Please provide documentation detailing:

No

- The identification of the relevant lot.
- Invitations sent to all capable suppliers.
- Evaluation criteria used to determine the most economically advantageous tender.
- Evidence of a fair and transparent evaluation process.

3. Neutral or Master Vendor:

If your Trust utilizes a neutral or master vendor to manage temporary staffing, how do you ensure these vendors comply with the framework’s requirements, including the Public Contracts Regulations 2015? Please provide evidence of compliance with the framework’s rules for transparency, fairness, and economic advantage.

N/A

- What processes are in place to monitor and audit the actions of neutral or master vendors?

N/A

4. Supplier Selection and Exclusion:

Please explain how your Trust lawfully selects certain suppliers while excluding others under the RM6281 framework.

N/A

- What justifications are used for these decisions, and how do you ensure compliance with the framework and procurement regulations?

5. Processes for Supplier Selection:

Could you outline the process your Trust follows when selecting suppliers for temporary clinical and healthcare staff under RM6281? This should include the decision-making steps for choosing between direct award, further competition, or engaging a neutral/master vendor.

N/A

- Please provide contact details for the department responsible for handling legal queries related to procurement under the framework.

N/A

6. Additional Information:

- The total number of agencies listed under Lot 1 and the rates at which they supply their services.

N/A

- The name of the master or neutral vendor managing shift allocation.

N/A

- If your Trust is not using the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework, please specify which framework is currently in use.

HealthTrust Europe

Lot 1 of the referenced Framework in the FOI is linked to Nursing and Midwifery supply. The Trust Nursing and Midwifery agency requirements are actually procured via the HealthTrust Europe Total Workforce Solutions II Framework Agreement, rather than RM6281. The Trust are part of a collaborative known as the 'West Midlands Cluster'. The Framework provider supported the process of supplier identification and 'Tiering' within the structure based upon a standardised rate card for acceptance to be part of the award.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dqft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**