

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

Ref: FOI-012025-0001361

Date: 8.4.25

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please see response below.

Questions A & B –

The Trust is now part of The Black Country Pathology Services.

The Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) Partnership integrates pathology services at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) for Sandwell West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH), The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (DGH) and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (WHT). The Black Country Pathology Service is hosted by RWT on behalf of the Partnership.

A. Microbiology & Pathology Departmental Contacts

1. Clinical Lead for Microbiology
 - Name
 - Job Title
 - Contact details (email, main phone extension if available)
2. Service Manager for Pathology (or equivalent)
 - Name
 - Job Title
 - Contact details
3. Pathology Operational Manager (if different from #2)
 - Name
 - Job Title
 - Contact details
4. Head of Clinical Services (if covering Pathology or labs)
 - Name
 - Job Title
 - Contact details
5. Medical Director (if overseeing Microbiology/Pathology)
 - Name
 - Job Title
 - Contact details
6. Department Coordinators/Administrators who manage locum scheduling or recruitment for Microbiology/Pathology
 - Name
 - Job Title

- Contact details
- 7. Regional Recruitment Leads for Microbiology (if applicable)
 - Name
 - Job Title
 - Contact details

B. Microbiology & Pathology Workforce and Locum Data

1. Current consultant vacancies in Microbiology (or combined Infection specialities).
 - If exact figures are unavailable, please provide the best estimate or vacancy rate (%).
2. Locum Consultants
 - Current number (headcount or FTE) of locum Microbiology consultants.
 - Typical or average assignment length (e.g., <1 month, 1–6 months, 6+ months).
3. Locum Expenditure & Pay
 - Total expenditure on locum Microbiology consultants for the most recent full financial year (e.g., 2023/24 or 2022/23).
 - The average or range of locum daily or hourly pay rates for Microbiology consultants.
 - Any separate on-call or unsocial hours rates, if easily identifiable.
4. Recruitment / Procurement Routes
 - Which framework(s) and preferred supplier lists (PSLs) your Trust uses to procure locum Microbiology consultants (e.g., HealthTrust Europe, CCS, etc.).
 - Whether you use a direct engagement model (e.g., Liaison, PlusUs, 247Time) and if so, which provider.
 - The IR35 status for consultant locums (are they all considered inside IR35, or are any outside IR35?).

C. General Medicine Workforce and Locum Data

1. Consultant Vacancies in General Medicine. - All current vacancies can be found on the Trust website [Job vacancy search: Which health sector? | trac.jobs](#)
2. Locum Consultant Numbers in General Medicine. - 0
3. Locum Expenditure on General Medicine for the last full financial year. Financial Year 2023/24 Agency Doctor Expenditure = £0
4. The average or range of locum pay rates (daily/hourly) for General Medicine. None = Not Applicable
5. Any relevant procurement frameworks or direct engagement providers used to source General Medicine locums. - Healthtrust Europe
6. Typical IR35 status for these General Medicine locum posts. - None - Not Applicable

D. Acute Medicine Workforce and Locum Data

1. Consultant Vacancies in Acute Medicine. - [Job vacancy search: Which health sector? | trac.jobs](#)
2. Locum Consultant Numbers in Acute Medicine. - 2
3. Locum Expenditure on Acute Medicine for the last full financial year. Financial Year 2023/24 Agency Doctor Expenditure = £99,442
4. The average or range of locum pay rates (daily/hourly) for Acute Medicine. Average Rate per Hour for Agency Doctors = £133.76
5. Any relevant frameworks or direct engagement providers used for Acute Medicine locums. - Healthtrust Europe
6. Typical IR35 status for these locum posts. - Above agency doctor engagements were inside IR35 regulations

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: dgft.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