

Date: 17/02/2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 012602 – Agency pay caps

I would like to request some information about how the recently introduced agency nurse spending rules are being implemented at your Trust, via the Freedom of Information Act. Questions on the trust's ceiling for agency nurse spend, as per the rules introduced from October 1, 2015:

- 1) How many applications has your trust made to increase its ceiling for agency nurse spend?
- 2) How many of these applications were successful? Questions on the agency pay caps – specifically regarding nurses – as per the rules introduced on November 23, 2015:
- 3) On how many shifts has your trust overridden the rules for hourly rate agency caps – specifically for nurses - since the rules were introduced?
- 4) Across how many weeks have these breaches (in question 3 above) occurred?
- 5) How many band five nurses has your trust overridden the rules for?
- 6) How many band six nurses has your trust overridden the rules for?
- 7) How many band seven nurses has your trust overridden the rules for?
- 8) How many band eight nurses has your trust overridden the rules for?

The Trust feels that Freedom of Information Exemption 43 Commercial Interests is appropriate in this case due to the following consideration:

By the Trust releasing information into the public domain, in relation to rates of pay for agency nursing over and above agency nursing caps, its ability to participate competitively in the procurement of nursing services in the current climate would be affected and prejudice the bargaining position of the Trust, which in turn could impact on its commercial interests. For instance, by disclosing the budget set aside for agency nursing, would potentially encourage suppliers to raise their prices.