

Date: 26/09/2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - Ref: FOI/014994 – External Consultants

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information, for the financial years:

- A) 2017/18
- B) 2018/19

1. Did your organisation use an external consultant for any of the following functions:

- Human Resources
- Legal Services
- Leadership and organisational development
- Board reviews
- Mediation
- Regulatory body inspection support

- The Trust holds information in regard to external consultancy but it is not specifically held following the functions you have listed above.

- To collate the information following the functions you have listed above would involve manually extracting each invoice to extract the information.

2. What were the names of the consultants used?

- Some of the consultancies are listed on the Trust's website where the payments were of £25,000 or more. However to retrieve the information for the consultancies where the payment is under that cost would involve interrogating individual invoices. There is no centralised reporting tool which would pull this information.

3. What was the expenditure with each consultant?

The total costs (not those broken down into specific functions) are provided within the Trust's Annual report under the following link: <http://www.dgft.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/DUDLEY-FT-ANNUAL-REPORT-web-version.pdf> (see page 114 for consultancy costs)

The Trust also publishes payments of £25,000 or more on its website under the following link:

<http://www.dgft.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/transparency-spend-over-25000/>

Many consultancies perform more than one of the functions you have listed so The Trust would be required to assess and apportion the costs.

To provide information in the detail you have requested over the period 2017 - 2019 would involve the interrogation of individual invoices as the information is unable to be pulled from a centralised report. This activity is anticipated to take more than the FOI recommended time limit of 18 hours and as such the FOI exemption Cost exceeds the Appropriate limit exemption section 12(1) is cited