

# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2024/10121

Date Received: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Response Due: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request concerning the procurement and award of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework for temporary clinical and healthcare staffing. I would appreciate your assistance in providing the following information:**

**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?**

The Trust does not use the RM6281 Framework.

**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.**

The Trust does not use the RM6281 Framework.

**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?**

The Trust does not use neutral or master vendor.

**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?**

The Trust does not use the RM6281 Framework.

**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.**

The Trust does not use the RM6281 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.**

The Trust uses the HTE Framework, Countess of Chester Framework and have used CCS for international recruitment.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner  
Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111