

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/10901

Date Received: 8th July 2025

Response Due: 5th August 2025

Date: 30th July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 8th July 2025, 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:

Please can I request the below information on the utilisation of Insourcing for the following period 01/04/2025-30/06/2025

1. Total spend during the period for Insourcing for the below specialties:

- **Neurology** = £0.
- **Neurophysiology** = £0.
- **Dermatology** = £42,972.
- **Gastroenterology** = £0.
- **Endoscopy** = £0.
- **Cardiology** = £0.
- **Respiratory** = £0.
- **Orthodontics / Dental** = £0.
- **OMFS** = £0.
- **ENT** = £0.
- **Rheumatology** = £0.
- **Gynaecology** = £0.
- **Ophthalmology** = £0.
- **Surgery- including all subspecialties** = £0.

2. Please break the spend down by insourcing company

Dermatology = Agile Workforce Services Ltd.

3. Please confirm if there was a budget for insourcing for the specialties outlined during the same period

No, there was no budget for dermatology insourcing. The spend was approved through the wider leadership team.

4. What was the service type relating to the specialties outlined, for example, outpatient, diagnostic or theatres.

Outpatients.

5. Was it a fully managed service or Team provision

Team provision to support the reduction of long waits.

6. Please can you confirm the Frameworks utilised for each specialty.

NHS SBS – Insourcing of Clinical Support Services.

7. Please confirm any direct awards or mini competitions which are being utilised for each specialty

Direct Award.

8. Total procedures completed by insourcing companies for the specialties outlined during the same period

This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please see the below.

Section 43(2) – Commercial interests

Information regarding the total number of procedures has been withheld under section 43(2) of the FOIA if its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

Section 43 of the FOIA is a qualified exemption and is subject to the Prejudice Test and the Public Interest Test.

Prejudice test

We confirm that we have carried out a full prejudice test and that, on the balance of probability, the Trust's interests would be prejudiced in the event of disclosure. Therefore, we confirm that the Prejudice Test is engaged.

Public interest test

We have also carried out the Public Interest Test to ascertain whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in withholding the requested information:

Public interest in disclosure of the information:

- We acknowledge that there is public interest in transparency around how the Trust engages with suppliers and procurement.
- We acknowledge that there is public interest in the Trust's finances.

Public interest in withholding of the information:

- **Protecting public finances** – As a public authority, the Trust must ensure that it obtains the best value for money. Disclosure of the information would be likely to affect the quality of future offers provided to the

Trust. It is therefore firmly in the public interest not to disclose any information which would affect commercial offers made to the Trust, which in turn will affect the Trust's finances.

- **Ensuring fair competition** – Information provided to the Trust during the procurement process contains sensitive competition information. It is not in the public interest to disclose information which would affect free and fair competition.

- **Transparency** – We understand that there is public interest in how the Trust engages with providers. However, we consider that the information held by the Trust would not significantly further the public understanding of its relationship with these suppliers beyond what has already been disclosed in this response.

- **Reputation damage or loss of confidence** - It is firmly in the public interest that the Trust takes all steps to protect its reputation around information handling. It is not in the public interest to do anything which would jeopardise our ability to maintain strong working relationships with third parties.

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