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| Reference: | FOI.018 |
| Subject: | Locum expenditure |
| Date of Request: | 14 January 2019 |

Requested

I would like you to send me the locum agency spend for Doctors for the hospital in acute settings as well as the community for each specialism. I would like to know the spend from January 2018 - present, also including the amount of locums that this refers to per month, broken down on a monthly basis. In the breakdown if you could please include the agencies that provide the locums also broken down numerically

Ideally this would read as below -
 January 2018 - £80k Community - £200k Acute
 A&E
 ID Medical – SPR x 2 Consultant x1
 Athona – SHO x 2
 RIG – Consultant x 1
 Ophthalmology
 RIG- Consultant x1
 Urology
 Your World- Consultant x1

Then a breakdown all the way to as present as possible- outlining spend via the Master Vendor as well as direct agency spend.

Response:

The UHB is unable to provide a headcount of the number of Locum staff engaged with in the acute hospital setting during the 2018 calendar years as this information is not recorded centrally.

It is estimated that the cost of retrieving and providing this information would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to comply with your request the UHB would be required to manually interrogate all invoices received for Locum staff to establish the number of Locum staff engaged with during the requested timeframe. For the 2018/18 financial year it is estimated to cost the following:

Manual scrutiny of 20,000 invoices at approximately 5 minutes per invoice

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 20,000 \times 5 \text{ minutes per record} & = & 1,666 \text{ hours} \\
 1,666 \text{ hours} \times \text{£}25 \text{ per hour} & = & \text{£}41,666
 \end{array}$$

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the *appropriate limit*.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance. The UHB has therefore provided the requested expenditure detail within Attachment 1.