

Reference:	FOI.5621.21
Subject:	Medical agency
Date of Request:	18 March 2021

Requested:

In relation to your supply of medical (doctor) temporary workers, please could you provide the answers to the following questions?

1. Which locum/staffing agencies have you engaged to be part of your medical (doctors) agency cascade? Please provide the names of the agencies split into the relevant tiers. If you do not use a tier system, please explain how vacancies are cascaded with agencies.
2. Please provide a breakdown of the proportion of medical (doctor) locum hours booked through each of these tiers for the last three years. If this is not available, please provide a breakdown of the proportion of medical (doctor) locum spend incurred through each of these tiers for the last three years. If only recent years are available, please provide what you have.
3. What is the protocol for releasing medical (doctor) vacancies to each of your tiers?
4. When are the current arrangements relating to your agency cascade in place until?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that a Master Vend arrangement is in place with the supplier Medacs Healthcare.
2. The UHB is unable to provide you with the information requested as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request 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 provide you with the requested information, the UHB would need to request this information from its supplier, Medacs, who would need to undertake a manual search of medical staff bookings, to identify any information that fulfils your request

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), 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.

3. The UHB confirms that medical vacancies are released to the supply chain partners, dependent on urgency and the start date.
4. The UHB's current framework is in place until 7 August 2021.