

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.17109 & 17111.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Off-framework doctor expenditure and sterile service agency supply
<b>Date of Request:</b>	15 and 16 April 2025

**Requested:**

FOI.17109

Please can you provide the following information in relation to your expenditure over the last financial year (2024/25) of Medical Locum Doctors via off-framework suppliers:

1. Number of hours filled?
2. Broken down by grade/specialty?
3. Off-framework agencies used during this period including the total spend for each agency?
4. Highest off-framework charge rate (including detail of grade/specialty)?
5. Average off-framework charge rates per grade/specialty (if available)?
6. Contact details for the member of staff / department responsible for on-boarding Doctor agencies?

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1. What framework are you associated with for sterile service agency supply?
2. Who is responsible for agency usage on framework and off framework in the Sterile Services/Decontamination department at all hospitals associated with the Trust
3. Please can you provide the contact number and email address for the manager(s) in questions 1 and 2
4. Have you used on-framework agency staff between March 2024 and March 2025 in Sterile Services?
5. How much was your on-Framework agency spend for Sterile Services between March 2024 and March 2025?
6. Have you used off-framework agency staff between March 2024 and March 2025 in Sterile Services?
7. How much was your Off-Framework agency spend for Sterile Services between March 2024 and March 2025?
8. Do you currently outsource your Sterile Services/Decontamination department, if yes, who do you outsource it to?

**Response:**

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Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” 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.

Some of the agency invoices received by the UHB do not include a breakdown of the information being requested for questions 1, 2, 4 and 5. Therefore, in order to provide you with all of the information requested, the UHB would need to identify the invoices and cross check with the relevant service and workforce records to identify any information that may fulfil these parts of your request, as this is not recorded centrally.

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.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. A Section 12 exemption has been applied. However, under Section 16 the UHB can confirm that a total of one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-five (1,965) hours were filled via its Medacs non-direct engagement supplier, during the 2024/25 financial year.
2. A Section 12 exemption has been applied. However, under Section 16 the UHB can confirm that the hours supplied in question 1 were all filled by Consultants. Additionally, the UHB provides a breakdown of these hours by specialism in the table below.

<b>Speciality</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Mental Health and Learning Disabilities (MH&LD)	1,965

3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the off-framework agencies used and the spend for each, during the 2024/25 financial year.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Spend</b>
Medacs	£295,832.32
Medinet Clinical Services Ltd	£134,420.00
Health People Group Ltd	£157,145.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>£587,397.77</b>

4. A Section 12 exemption has been applied. Under Section 16 the UHB confirms the highest charge rate for Medacs was £134.99 per hour.
5. A Section 12 exemption has been applied. Under Section 16 the UHB confirms the average charge rate for Medacs was £130.95 per hour.

6. The UHB confirms that Lisa Gostling, Director of Workforce & OD / Deputy Chief Executive, has overall responsibility for on-boarding Doctor agencies.

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1. The UHB confirms that it does not utilise agency staffing within its sterile services department.

2. Not applicable.

3. The UHB provides the requested contact information overleaf:

Name: Philip Flear – Head of Decontamination Services

Email Address: [philip.flear@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:philip.flear@wales.nhs.uk)

Phone number: 01554783299

4. – 7. Not applicable.

8. The UHB confirms it does not outsource its sterile services work.