

Date: Thursday, 22nd June 2023
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 5785

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5785

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 12th June 2023.

Your request was as follows:

I kindly request the following information regarding the Acting Down Policy employed by the trust. For the avoidance of doubt, this is the policy employed by the trust relating to stepping down of consultants to cover the role of absent junior doctors.

1. A copy of the most recent version of the Acting Down Policy implemented by the hospital.

[I can confirm that the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust does not have an Acting Down Policy.](#)

2. The number of times the Acting Down Policy has been enacted within the trust over the past year. Please provide a breakdown by specialty, indicating the number of times the policy was applied in each specific area.

[The WCFT only asked consultants to act down during the junior doctors strikes.](#)

3. The total cost incurred by the trust as a result of implementing the Acting Down Policy over the past year. Please provide the financial figures associated with this policy, broken down by specialty.

[The total value paid for both the March and April strikes from the BMA 'acting down' rate card was £142,174. As well as consultants, there were SAS/SpR/CT grade doctors also paid for 'acting down'.](#)

[Neurology - £52,438](#)

[Neurosurgery - £56,695](#)

[Anaesthesia - £33,041](#)

4. The number of days off in lieu granted to individuals who have stepped down as a result of the Acting Down Policy. Please provide the breakdown by specialty, indicating the number of days off given in each specific area.

[No days were given in lieu as these were all paid.](#)

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 5785 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information