

FOI 3721

8th May 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Please confirm if you operate a vendor management system for agency staff such as an MSP/neutral vendor/master vendor etc.

If so, please can you name the below:

- Company name
- Contract start and end date
- Framework utilised
- Healthcare specialty used for, EG Doctors/Nursing/AHP/HSS/NMNC
- Do you utilise a direct engagement model and the name of the model, eg Tempre/Own DE model etc

Medical Staff Response

Response: On the advice of our cyber security team, we are unable to release the name of our provider.

This information is exempt from disclosure under sections 24 and 31 of Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 24 (1) Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Section 31 (1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice
(a) the prevention or detection of crime.

- **Contract Start Date:**

Response: 04/06/25

- **Contract End Date:**

Response: 08/12/26

- **Healthcare specialty used:**

Response: Locum Doctors in All Medical Specialties

- **Do you utilise a direct engagement model and the name of the model:**

Response: No

Non-Medical Staff Response

Response: Yes, we use a Vendor Management system for Nurse Bank

On the advice of our cyber security team, we are unable to release the name of our provider.

This information is exempt from disclosure under sections 24 and 31 of Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 24 (1) Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Section 31 (1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice
(a) the prevention or detection of crime.

- **Contract Start Date:**

Response: 01/01/2024

- **Contract End Date:**

Response: 31/12/2028

2. Please confirm if you operate a vendor management system for bank staff.

If so, please can you name the below:

-Company name

-Contract start and end date

-Framework utilised

-Healthcare specialty used for, EG Doctors/Nursing/AHP/HSS/NMNC

Medical Staff Response

- **Company Name**

Response: The Trust currently use HSC eLocums to support its staff bank for medical doctors

- **Contract start and end date for each bank supplier (dd/mm/yy)**

Response: HSC eLocums is owned by HSC and there is no contract end.

- **Healthcare specialty used for, EG Doctors/Nursing/AHP/HSS/NMNC**

Response: Medical

Non-Medical Staff Response

Response: On the advice of our cyber security team, we are unable to release the name of our provider.

This information is exempt from disclosure under sections 24 and 31 of Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 24 (1) Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Section 31 (1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice
(a) the prevention or detection of crime.

- **Healthcare specialty used for, EG Doctors/Nursing/AHP/HSS/NMNC**

Response: Nursing

- **Contract start and end date for each bank supplier (dd/mm/yy)**
- **Contract Start Date:**

Response: 01/01/2024

Contract End Date:

Response: 31/12/2028

Public Interest Test

Some of the exemptions in the FOI Act, referred to as 'qualified exemptions', are subject to a public interest test (PIT). This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information, or the considerations for and against the requirement to say whether the information requested is held or not. We must carry out a PIT where we are considering using any of the qualified exemptions in response to a request for information.

The 'public interest' is not the same as what interests the public. In carrying out a PIT we consider the greater good or benefit to the community if the information is released or not. The 'right to know' must be balanced against the need to enable effective management and to serve the best interests of the public.

The FOI Act is 'applicant blind'. This means that we cannot, and do not, ask about the motives of anyone who asks for information. In providing a response to one person, we are expressing a willingness to provide the same response to anyone, including those who might represent a threat to the UK.

Considerations in favour of disclosing the information

There is public interest in the disclosure of the information within the scope of your request. Openness increases public trust in, and engagement with, the Trust. The disclosure of the requested information could enhance the openness of the Trust and help the public understand Trust issues.

Considerations against disclosing the information

This request relates to Vendor management system for agency staff and release of this information to the public domain would make the Trust more vulnerable to cyber-attacks. The public interest in maintaining the security of our systems and providing safe health and social care to our patients/clients outweighs the public interest in disclosure of this information.

Balance of the public interest test

Although the Southern Trust understands that there is a public interest in being open and transparent, the information is business sensitive and has the potential to leave the Trust vulnerable to cyber-attacks. By disclosing these details, this information could prejudice and compromise the Trust's network/IT security.

We have determined that the possible damage to national security, public wellbeing and the Trust's ability to undertake its business outweigh the public's interest in releasing the requested documents.

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