

FOI - 2357

8th May 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing to obtain information about your organisation's spending on settlement agreements in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Please include the following information:

- **The total number of settlement agreements for each financial year.**
- **The total costs associated for each settlement agreement in each financial year.**

This includes, but is not limited to, a payment of salary, payment in lieu of a notice period and payment of compensation for loss of office

Response:

2020- 21

Nil

2021- 22

<5 at £6,500 total payout

2022 -23

<5 at £102,500 total payout.

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection.

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net