

7th August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request regarding financial efficiencies.

The Trust can provide the following information:

I am researching the financial efficiency of the NHS. Under the FOI act, please provide all of the information that you are able to supply:

1. Which VAT advisor does the trust use? (E.g. Berthold Bauer, CRS, Liaison, EY, KPMG, etc.)
2. When did the contract start, and when does it end?
3. What % fee or day rate do you pay?
4. How much did you pay for VAT advisory services in 2014/15?
5. Do you use a provider for VAT re-reviews? If so, which one?
6. What % fee or day rate do you pay for a re-review service?
7. How much did you pay for this service in 2014/15?

8. Do you use any external provider to identify payments for duplicated invoices (please state name)?
9. When did the contract start, and when does it end?
What % fee or rates do you pay for the service?
10. How much did they invoice the trust in 2014/15?

11. How much bad debt (UK) was written off in 2014/15?
12. How much overseas debt was written off in 2014/15?
13. Do you use any external provider to assist with debt collection (please state name)?
14. What % fee or rates do you pay for the service?
15. How much did they invoice the trust in 2014/15?

16. Do you use any external provider to ensure invoices correlate to the contract charges i.e. checking volume discounts have been applied (please state name)?
17. What % fee or rates does the trust pay for this service?

Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust takes periodic advice on the application of the VAT rules to the services that it provides and goods and services that it procures. *Having considered the further details of your request, the Homerton Hospital will not be providing any more of the requested information.*

Specifically, Section 43 of the Act permits public authorities to protect their own commercial interests and those of third parties with whom we engage. Having applied the public interest test we are therefore applying this exemption to your request. The Act also permits us to decline to provide information where "it would potentially be used by the enquirer to gain competitive advantage in the market place."

Incorporating hospital and community health services, teaching and research

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk , in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

Mike Dunne
Information Governance Manager/Deputy Calidcott Guardian