NHS Borders
Planning & Performance

NHS Borders
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Freedom of Information request 118-21

Request

In relation to your supply of medical (doctor) temporary workers, please could you provide the answers to the following questions?

1) Which locum/staffing agencies have you engaged to be part of your medical (doctors) agency cascade? Please provide the names of the agencies split into the relevant tiers. If you do not use a tier system, please explain how vacancies are cascaded with agencies.

2) Please provide a breakdown of the proportion of medical (doctor) locum hours booked through each of these tiers for the last three years. If this is not available, please provide a breakdown of the proportion of medical (doctor) locum spend incurred through each of these tiers for the last three years. If only recent years are available, please provide what you have.

3) What is the protocol for releasing medical (doctor) vacancies to each of your tiers?

4) When are the current arrangements relating to your agency cascade in place until?

Response

1. The details of NP500/16 framework - Supply of Agency Temporary Medical Locum Doctors and successful suppliers are available from The Public Contracts Scotland website at https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts_View.aspx?id=493391 therefore please note under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

2. See the breakdown of medical (doctor) locum hours booked for 2018 – 2019, 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 below:

2018 - 2019

First Medical Staffing Solutions	2%
MEDACS Healthcare PLC	78%
MEDECHO Ltd	1%
MP Locums Healthcare	9%
Reed Specialist Recruitment	6%
Templars Medical Agency	4%

2019 - 2020

Accident & Emergency Agency	1%
HCL Doctors Ltd	1%
Holt Doctors Ltd	10%
ID Medical Group Ltd	32%
MEDACS Healthcare PLC	29%
MEDECHO Ltd	5%
MP Locums Healthcare	5%

Reed Specialist Recruitment	3%
Templars Medical Agency	14%

<u>2020 - 2021</u>

Fresh Recruitment Ltd	1%
Holt Doctors Ltd	5%
ID Medical Group Ltd	11%
MEDACS Healthcare PLC	40%
MEDECHO Ltd	23%
MP Locums Healthcare	>1%
NC Healthcare Ltd	15%
Reed Specialist Recruitment	>1%
Templars Medical Agency	3%

3. If the framework agencies are unable to meet a locum request, it is escalated to the Medical Director to approve releasing a locum vacancy to non framework agencies.

4. The current arrangements are in place until 30 April 2022.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **118-21** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.