



Trust Headquarters
Nexus House
4 Gatwick Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Date:

Email:

Dear,

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 240907.

You requested the following information, please see our response below:

I am writing to formally submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request concerning the procurement and award of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework for providing temporary nurses and clinical staffing. I kindly request your assistance in addressing the following inquiries:

1. **Compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015:** Please provide information on how the Trust ensures that the awarding of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework adheres to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

We do not award contracts; we use Crown Commercial Services Framework approved suppliers based on the needs of the business. We consider adherence to the framework agency price caps, locality of candidates and we will always approach a number of agencies based on their specialisms to the roles we need to recruit to. i.e Clinical Agencies who can offer NHS Pathways Trained Clinical Advisors to be placed in NHS 111 or 999.

2. **Non-discrimination and Fairness:** How does the Trust ensure that it does not discriminate or act unfairly towards suppliers when selecting contractors under this framework?

As above

3. **Supplier Invitation:** Does the Trust invite all approved suppliers under the framework to bid or supply services, as stipulated by the framework's rules? If so, could you provide evidence or examples of this process in practice?

As above

4. **Supplier Selection Process:** Please outline the legal justification the Trust uses when selecting certain suppliers while excluding others under the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework.

As above

5. **Compliance with Selection Criteria:** Could you explain the process by which suppliers are selected under the framework, particularly concerning ensuring compliance with the selection criteria set out in the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015?

As above

6. **Further Competition Process:** Could you describe the process your Trust follows for further competition under the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework? Specifically, do you use direct awards, or do you invite suppliers for further competition for Lot 1? Please provide evidence to support your response.

As above

7. **Evidence of Compliance:** Kindly provide any documentation or evidence demonstrating how the Trust ensures compliance with the aforementioned regulations and framework rules when awarding contracts under Lot 1 for the provision of temporary nurses and clinical staffing.

As above

8. **Legal Queries and Proceedings:** Please provide contact details (department and individual, if available) for submitting legal queries or initiating legal proceedings related to procurement processes under this framework.

As above

If any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**

