



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 240908.

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

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

1. Direct Award Method:

- o Has your Trust employed the direct award method for sourcing workers or small groups of workers under the RM6281 framework? If so, please provide evidence demonstrating that the selected suppliers offered the most economically advantageous terms in accordance with the framework's guidelines.**

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.

Agency usage is very minimal within the Trust due to the specialisms required, we use an internally managed bank of staff to fill short term rota hours.

- What measures does your Trust implement to ensure transparency and fairness in direct award decisions, including maintaining a clear audit trail?**

As above

2. Further Competition:

o Has your Trust used the further competition process for awarding contracts where adjustments to the framework terms were necessary or where commercial benefits could be achieved? Please provide documentation detailing:

- The identification of the relevant lot.
- Invitations sent to all capable suppliers.
- Evaluation criteria used to determine the most economically advantageous tender.
- Evidence of a fair and transparent evaluation process.

As above

3. Neutral or Master Vendor:

o If your Trust utilizes a neutral or master vendor to manage temporary staffing, how do you ensure these vendors comply with the framework's requirements, including the Public Contracts Regulations 2015? Please provide evidence of compliance with the framework's rules for transparency, fairness, and economic advantage.

- What processes are in place to monitor and audit the actions of neutral or master vendors?

As above

4. Supplier Selection and Exclusion:

o Please explain how your Trust lawfully selects certain suppliers while excluding others under the RM6281 framework. What justifications are used for these decisions, and how do you ensure compliance with the framework and procurement regulations?

As above

5. Processes for Supplier Selection:

o Could you outline the process your Trust follows when selecting suppliers for temporary clinical and healthcare staff under RM6281? This should include the decision-making steps for choosing between direct award, further competition, or engaging a neutral/master vendor.

- Please provide contact details for the department responsible for handling legal queries related to procurement under the framework.

As above

6. Additional Information:

- o The total number of agencies listed under Lot 1 and the rates at which they supply their services.
- o The name of the master or neutral vendor managing shift allocation.
- If your Trust is not using the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework, please specify which framework is currently in use.

As above

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for 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**

