

16 September 2016

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By email

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W: [improvement.nhs.uk](http://improvement.nhs.uk)

Dear

### **Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”)**

I refer to your email of **18 August 2016** in which you requested information under the FOI Act. Since 1 April 2016, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority are operating as an integrated organisation known as NHS Improvement.

### **Your request**

You made the following request:

1. *How many interim Chief Operating Officers have been in post to date since April 2016?*
2. *What is the total salary paid to the interim Chief Operating Officers to date since April 2016?*
3. *How many interim Chief Operating Officers are in post at present i.e. in August 2016?*
4. *What is the average daily rate of the interim Chief Operating Officers ?*
5. *What is the highest daily rate paid to the interim Chief Operating Officers since April 2016?*
6. *How does the daily rate for interim Chief Operating Officers compare to the cap on the following:*
  - I. *a band 6 nurses*
  - II. *A&E locum consultants*
7. *What is the total amount paid in the last 3 years to the following interim Chief Operating Officers:*
  - I. *Evelyn Barker, Cambridge*
  - II. *Jon Scott, Sherwood Forest*
  - III. *Jane Farrell, North Middlesex*
  - IV. *Rab Mc Ewan, Worcester*
8. *What are NHSIs plans for substantive appointments to these positions? Kindly give details of the efforts made by these trusts and Monitor and TDA for substantive appointments.*
9. *How much in total has been saved by agency and locum caps on all groups and grades e since January 2016?*
10. *When will NHSI introduce a cap for interim Chief Operating Officers?*

### **Decision**

NHS Improvement holds some of the information that you have requested. We have responded to each of your questions in turn.

1. *How many interim Chief Operating Officers have been in post to date since April 2016?*

NHS Improvement holds some information on this, which we are disclosing to you. However, please be mindful of the following.

NHS Improvement is not responsible for engaging interim or substantive Chief Operating Officers, and trusts are not obliged to share this information with us. As we are not responsible for making these appointments or approving them, the information we hold may not be accurate.

Also, our duty under the FOI Act extends to us providing information that we held at the time of the request (i.e. 18 August 2016). The information we have decided to disclose to you is based on our understanding that “interim” posts do not refer to individuals who are on secondment or are acting up from other roles into a Chief Operating Officer post.

The information we hold indicates that there are 12 interim Chief Operating Officers who have been in post to date (i.e. to 18 August 2016) since April 2016.

2. *What is the total salary paid to the interim Chief Operating Officers to date since April 2016?*

NHS Improvement does not hold this information.

3. *How many interim Chief Operating Officers are in post at present i.e. in August 2016?*

As explained above, NHS Improvement holds some information on this, which we are disclosing to you. However, please be mindful of the following.

NHS Improvement is not responsible for engaging interim or substantive Chief Operating Officers, and trusts are not obliged to share this information with us. As we are not responsible for making these appointments or approving them, the information we hold may not be accurate.

Also, our duty under the FOI Act extends to us providing information that we held at the time of the request (i.e. 18 August 2016). The information we have decided to disclose to you is based on our understanding that “interim” posts do not refer to individuals who are on secondment or are acting up from other roles into a Chief Operating Officer post.

The information we hold indicates that there are 13 interim Chief Operating Officers who are in post at present (i.e. at 18 August 2016).

4. *What is the average daily rate of the interim Chief Operating Officers ?*

NHS Improvement does not hold this information.

5. *What is the highest daily rate paid to the interim Chief Operating Officers since April 2016?*

NHS Improvement does not hold this information.

6. How does the daily rate for interim Chief Operating Officers compare to the cap on the following:

- I. a band 6 nurses
- II. A&E locum consultants

NHS Improvement does not hold this information.

7. What is the total amount paid in the last 3 years to the following interim Chief Operating Officers:

- I. Evelyn Barker, Cambridge
- II. Jon Scott, Sherwood Forest
- III. Jane Farrell, North Middlesex
- IV. Rab Mc Ewan, Worcester

NHS Improvement does not hold this information. We suggest you approach each trust directly for this information. They will need to consider whether information can properly be provided by them in response to any such requests within the terms of the FOI Act.

8. What are NHSIs plans for substantive appointments to these positions? Kindly give details of the efforts made by these trusts and Monitor and TDA for substantive appointments.

As explained above, NHS Improvement is not responsible for making appointments or approving them. You should therefore approach the trusts for this information.

9. How much in total has been saved by agency and locum caps on all groups and grades since January 2016?

| Month  | Actual monthly agency spend | Trend prior to agency controls | Reduced agency costs |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan-16 | 285                         | 398                            | 113                  |
| Feb-16 | 287                         | 361                            | 74                   |
| Mar-16 | 335                         | 330                            | -5                   |
| Apr-16 | 252                         | 319                            | 67                   |
| May-16 | 254                         | 319                            | 65                   |
| Jun-16 | 256                         | 319                            | 63                   |

£377m has been saved since January 2016 from the introduction of the agency rules.

10. When will NHSI introduce a cap for interim Chief Operating Officers?

NHS Improvement has no immediate plans to introduce caps for interim Chief Operating Officers.

### **Review rights**

If you consider that your request for information has not been properly handled or if you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within NHS Improvement of the issue or the decision. A senior member of NHS Improvement's staff, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to FOI Request Reviews, NHS Improvement, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to [nhsi.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nhsi.foi@nhs.net).

### **Publication**

Please note that this letter will shortly be published on our website. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the FOI Act is disclosed to the public at large. We will, of course, remove your personal information (e.g. your name and contact details) from the version of the letter published on our website to protect your personal information from general disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

NHS Improvement