

29 February 2024

## Spend on Education and Training

1. **How much did your Trust spend in total on education and training April to March 2021/2022 and April to March 2022/2023 (overall spend)?**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| April to March 2021-2022 (overall spend) | £2,866,005 |
| April to March 2022-2023 (overall spend) | £3,844,963 |

2. **Please advise how much of this total spend was with external providers?**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| April to March 2021-2022 (overall spend)  | £1,824,124 |
| April to March 2022- 2023 (overall spend) | £3,512,032 |

3. **Please can you break down the overall spend into the following categories for April to March 2021-2022 & April to March 2022-2023?**

**Apprenticeship training**  
**Mandatory, statutory and compliance training**  
**Management and Leadership training**  
**Healthcare support worker training**  
**Allied Healthcare Professionals**

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

I can confirm that our Finance Department do not hold or code information that would allow them to pull costs to answer this question.

Our Human Resources Department are also not able to provide information on how the expense was allocated by category.

We also checked across relevant service areas who have confirmed they would be unable to provide an answer to this question as the information is not held centrally.

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As an example, within Nursing, education and training would be both role and service specific and therefore, would vary across each division, within each profession and would also require them to cost the hours associated with the release of staff to attend specific training, as not all training and development would have a specific fee/cost. To provide this information would require more than 18 hours work and so is exempt from release under FOI legislation.

**4. What are the top five categories that you procure externally?**

Belfast Trust is unable to report on the top 5 categories without carrying out a trawl of each individual invoice. To do this would require more than 18 hours and so is exempt from release under FOI legislation.