

12 April 2024

Belfast Trust Staffing

I am writing to request specific information regarding staffing and police interviews related to the ongoing Muckamore Hospital Inquiry. I am seeking the following information under FOI.

1. The total number of staff currently in post within the trust.

Total number of staff as of 28 February 2024 is 21782 (headcount).

2. The total number of staff who have been issued with a contract by the trust. Include also the number of staff who have multiple post and outline if they have a separate contract for these posts

Unfortunately there is no reporting mechanism to determine how many staff have been issued with a statement of particulars (contract) therefore we cannot provide this information. This is due to a number of reasons:

Pre 2007

Belfast Trust was established in 2007 and all employees at that time retained their legacy terms and conditions. We cannot confirm that they were issued with a contract before moving to Belfast Trust. To determine if a contract was issued at any stage of employment would require a manual search of each personal file. We estimate that compliance with this request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

2007 to c.2020

At the establishment of BHSCT, HR issued contracts manually and a central record was not retained therefore the information cannot be provided as it is not in recorded form.

c. 2020 – present day

A number of HR issues such as Covid working arrangements and reduced staffing levels have impacted the ability to issue contracts and record this centrally. The only way to determine if an individual received a contract would be to review their personal file. We estimate that compliance with this request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in

12 April 2024

determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

3. The total number of staff, as of today's date, who have not been issued with a contract.

The information requested is not collated centrally and an extensive trawl of records would be required. We estimate that compliance with this request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

4. The number of employment contracts that the trust is aware of, which have not yet been released to staff.

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