

21 February 2025

Microbiology/Pathology, General Medicine, and Acute Medicine Workforce & Contacts

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for your Trust.

A. Microbiology & Pathology Departmental Contacts

1. Clinical Lead for Microbiology

Name: Ciaran O’Gorman
Job Title: Service Improvement Lead
Contact details (email, main phone extension if available):
Ciaran.OGorman@belfasttrust.hscni.net Tel: 028 9504 7214

2. Service Manager for Pathology (or equivalent)

Name: Laurence Tucker
Job Title: Service Manager for Molecular Services
Contact details: Laurence.Tucker@belfasttrust.hscni.net Tel: 028 9504 9524

3. Pathology Operational Manager (if different from #2)

Name: Mark McGimpsey
Job Title: Microbiology Manager
Contact details: mark.mcgimpsey@belfasttrust.hscni.net Tel: 028 9615 1576

4. Head of Clinical Services (if covering Pathology or labs)

Name: Not applicable
Job Title: Not applicable
Contact details: Not applicable

5. Medical Director (if overseeing Microbiology/Pathology)

Name: Shane McKee
Job Title: Laboratory Director
Contact details: shane.mckee@belfasttrust.hscni.net Tel: 028 9504 7472

6. Department Co-ordinators/Administrators who manage locum scheduling or recruitment for Microbiology/Pathology

Name: Ciaran O’Gorman
Job Title: Service Improvement Lead
Contact details: Ciaran.OGorman@belfasttrust.hscni.net Tel: 028 9504 7214

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7. Regional Recruitment Leads for Microbiology (if applicable)

Name: Not applicable

Job Title: Not applicable

Contact details: Not applicable

B. Microbiology & Pathology Workforce and Locum Data

1. Current consultant vacancies in Microbiology (or combined Infection specialities). If exact figures are unavailable, please provide the best estimate or vacancy rate (%).

Zero (none)

2. Locum Consultants

Current number (headcount or FTE) of locum Microbiology consultants.

Typical or average assignment length (e.g., <1 month, 1–6 months, 6+ months).

Zero (none)

3. Locum Expenditure & Pay

Total expenditure on locum Microbiology consultants for the most recent full financial year (e.g., 2023/24 or 2022/23).

£0

The average or range of locum daily or hourly pay rates for Microbiology consultants.

Not applicable

Any separate on-call or unsocial hours rates, if easily identifiable.

Not applicable

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4. Recruitment / Procurement Routes

Which framework(s) and preferred supplier lists (PSLs) your Trust uses to procure locum Microbiology consultants (e.g., HealthTrust Europe, CCS, etc.).

500694 Framework for the Recruitment of Agency Workers: Medical & Dental.

Whether you use a direct engagement model (e.g., Liaison, PlusUs, 247Time) and if so, which provider.

Procurement and Logistics Service (PaLS) would hold this information – **you should redirect your request to them.** To assist you we have checked with PaLS who advise that when you contact them with this query you should provide further clarification on what you mean by 'direct engagement'. To contact PaLS see link below:

[Freedom of Information - Business Services Organisation \(BSO\) Website](#)

The IR35 status for consultant locums (are they all considered inside IR35, or are any outside IR35?).

Microbiology, to date, have not had the requirement to hire Medical Locums through the Framework but the clause below in the current Framework is relevant, when engaging locums via the framework:

For the upcoming medical framework, Procurement and Logistics Service (PaLS) have advised that, updated provisions have been included to supersede this: *SS20a Scoping & Specification: 9.4 The Client requires the Contractor to ensure its staff is knowledgeable of and competently understand the application of the following: i. The requirements of the Intermediaries Legislation (IR35) ii. Relevant Transfusion Training and competencies.*

C. General Medicine Workforce and Locum Data (Please provide the same type of information as above, but now for General Medicine.)

- 1. Consultant Vacancies in General Medicine.**
- 2. Locum Consultant Numbers in General Medicine.**
- 3. Locum Expenditure on General Medicine for the last full financial year.**
- 4. The average or range of locum pay rates (daily/hourly) for General Medicine.**
- 5. Any relevant procurement frameworks or direct engagement providers used to source General Medicine locums.**
- 6. Typical IR35 status for these General Medicine locum posts.**

With regard to Section C, Questions 1 to 6 above, General Medicine does not exist as a specialty within Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and therefore we are unable to respond.

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D. Acute Medicine Workforce and Locum Data (*Again, mirror the Microbiology/Pathology questions, but for Acute Medicine.*)

1. Consultant Vacancies in Acute Medicine.

Zero

2. Locum Consultant Numbers in Acute Medicine.

Zero

3. Locum Expenditure on Acute Medicine for the last full financial year.

£213,431 (April 2023 to March 2024)

4. The average or range of locum pay rates (daily/hourly) for Acute Medicine.

£91.97

5. Any relevant frameworks or direct engagement providers used for Acute

Regional Medical Agency contract

6. Typical IR35 status for these locum posts.

/FY24/9 - December

S2				
		WHOLE TIME EQUIVALENT		
		FSL	WTE	VAR
AH4503	ACUTE MEDICINE, ENDO & DIABETES	20.00	21.71	1.71
A1H230	BHSCT ENDO/DIABETES MED STAFF	13.31	13.98	0.68
A1H260	RVH ACUTE PHYSICIANS	5.07	6.73	1.66
A7H080	MIH ACUTE PHYSICIANS	1.62	1.00	-0.62

E. Format & Clarifications

1. If possible, please provide the information in an Excel, CSV, or similar machine-readable format.
2. If any part of this request exceeds cost/time limits, please advise which part so we can refine or separate accordingly.
3. If personal data (e.g., direct consultant emails) is restricted, please supply generic departmental or corporate email addresses.