

Ref FOI17 055
Date 18 April 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Please find below/attached the Isle of Wight NHS Trust's response to your request.

1) Does your Ambulance Service recruit individual members of staff, double-crewed ambulances or both when purchasing services from the private sector?

Any arrangements are through a provider, not with individuals

2) How much did your Trust spend in the financial year 2015/6 on privately contracted emergency staff (individuals or double-crewed ambulances)?

There was no spend on privately contracted emergency staff within Ambulance Services.

3) Do you contract staff (whether individuals or double-crewed ambulances) to undertake emergency operational work?

We do not have set contracts; we use contractors on an ad-hoc basis as required

4) How do you verify that the statutory and mandatory training of individual private ambulance clinical staff that you contract to undertake emergency (999) operational work, is comparable to that provided to your Trust's employed clinical staff?

We have MOUs with private providers; they undertake the necessary pre-employment checks and provide assurance to us. They are given a local induction and we audit their patient report forms for quality and assurance, as we would with our own contracted staff.

5) How does the statutory and mandatory training of privately contracted staff (individuals or double crewed ambulance) that you contract to undertake emergency (999) operational work, compare with your employed staff, in terms of: (a) comparison of compliance rates with your Trusts performance Targets (number of staff that have completed statutory and mandatory training) according to your agreed training plan, and (b) subjects undertaken as defined by your Trusts agreed training plan for employed staff?

All staff are required to work according to their specified scope of practice in line with HCPC guidance. Any contractors would provide assurance of up to date training of staff as required by the MOUs in place. As above, contractors are given a local induction before commencing their first shift, our clinical team audit their patient report forms in line with the governance around regular contracted staff.

6) How do completions rates of PRFs (or electronic patient records) by privately contracted (individuals or double crewed ambulances) compare with rates by Trust employed clinicians?

Private provider staff are required to complete patient report forms as per regular contracted staff and these are audited by our clinical teams.

7) How does compliance of PRF (or electronic patient records) by privately contracted (individuals or double crewed ambulances) compare with compliance by Trust employed clinicians in terms of the quality standards for completion which your Trust sets and according to your Trusts policies and procedures?

Private provider staff are required to complete patient report forms as per regular contracted staff and these are audited by our clinical teams. They have been found to be of a high standard. If there were issues they would be dealt with in line with Trust Policy.

8) Does your Trust mandate that private double-crewed ambulances contracted by your Trust for emergency work have the same standard and type of clinical equipment as your own emergency ambulances and that this meets your own maintenance standards? If yes, to what degree are our privately contracted emergency vehicles compliant with your Trusts vehicle equipment standards?

There is an agreed list of equipment in the MOU to be provided by the private contractor.

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust came into existence on 1 April 2012 and does not hold information prior to this date. If you require information prior to this date, please contact the Department of Health.

Please note that this response does not constitute consent for direct marketing.

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust serves a resident population of 140,000 with a substantial influx of tourists during the summer months. The Trust provides acute, ambulance, community,

maternity, mental health services on the Isle of Wight. As the only fully integrated service provider in England with this unique range of services comparisons with other service providers are not always straightforward.

A log of this request will be held on a database by the Trust. All hard copy correspondence relating to this request will be held for one year from the date of this letter, before being confidentially destroyed. A copy of this response will be published on the Trust website.

If you are unhappy about the response you have received, you should write and request the Trust to undertake an internal review of your application. A senior member of staff, not previously involved with your request for information, will undertake this review. If you remain dissatisfied with the response received you may complain to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information Team

