

Date: **23 October 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5420**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your requests for information below:

**Your Request**

*Please could you provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000*

*In your 2018/19 annual report and accounts you make the following statements:*

- *"Private patient work is also key to providing financial support for our NHS paediatric services"*
  
- *" This year, as the NHS struggles to meet the costs of specialist care, we will in part draw on the contribution from private patients to balance our financial position."*
  
- *"The funding we receive for NHS activity is not sufficient to cover the cost of delivering it, and we rely on the contribution from private patients to balance our financial position."*
  
- *"The International and Private Patient Service treated 1,113 inpatients and delivered 18,206 outpatient appointments, generating income of £63.3m in dedicated and funded facilities at GOSH in 2018/19"*

<https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/file/36871/download>

*1a) Please could you provide me with the percentage of the £63.3m income from private patients - cited in the Trust's 18/19 accounts - which is available for NHS care. (For the sake of clarity, I am asking how much of the Trust's annual private patient income is available as a surplus for NHS care following deductions for staff costs, capital costs etc. I would like this presented as a % of total private patient income.)*

*1b) Please could you provide me with the same information as requested in 1a) in relation to the private patient income received by the Trust for each of*

*the financial years 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; (for the sake of clarity, I would like you to please provide the % of private patient income received by the Trust which is available for NHS care after deductions for staff costs, capital costs etc)*

*2a) For each of the financial years 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19 please could you provide me with the percentage of the Trusts total private patient income which is spent on payments to consultants who are employed by the Trust. (For the sake of clarity we assume that consultants will receive an additional payment for providing private services on top of their NHS salary.)*

*2b) Please could you provide me with the number of consultants employed by the Trust to whom a payment was made for providing private services in the year 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19 (I.e. a payment in addition to their NHS salary)*

*2c) Please could you provide me with the largest amount paid to an individual consultant employed by the Trust as a result of providing private patient services in the years 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19*

*Please could you provide me with the total expenditure on consultants by the Trust for the provision of NHS services for the years 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19 and the total number of consultants employed by the Trust in this year.*

### **Our Request for Clarification**

We contacted you to clarify your request for information to specifically seeking to obtain relating to “income received from private patients”. You were asked to provide a more precise description of the information to enable us to proceed with your request.

### **Your Response to our Request for Clarification**

*You responded to clarify, I am asking the Trust to provide information on how much of the actual income received from private patients goes towards funding services for NHS patients for each of the following years specified.*

*This is because the Trust has stated in its accounts that and "we rely on the contribution from private patients to balance our financial position."*

*It is a fact that not all of the income that is received from private patients goes back into providing NHS services as the Trust will need to pay the cost of providing the treatment out of that income received.*

*I am therefore asking for the percentage of the income received from private patients which goes towards NHS care for each of the years specified.*

*In addition I would like the Trust to provide information on the cost of providing treatment to private patients which relates to payments to the Trust's consultants.*

*I would like this information for each of the financial years specified in the original request.*

### **Our Response**

**Please see our response (in bold) to your following request for information from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust:**

*1a) Please could you provide me with the percentage of the £63.3m income from private patients - cited in the Trust's 18/19 accounts - which is available for NHS care. (For the sake of clarity, I am asking how much of the Trust's annual private patient income is available as a surplus for NHS care following deductions for staff costs, capital costs etc. I would like this presented as a % of total private patient income.)*

**All income made from IPP work is reinvested into NHS Services. The Trust does not centrally hold the level of information requested. We have to bear in mind that profitability margins are not held in a verified format and would be subject to conjecture and outside the spirit of your request for information.**

*1b) Please could you provide me with the same information as requested in 1a) in relation to the private patient income received by the Trust for each of the financial years 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; (for the sake of clarity, I would like you to please provide the % of private patient income received by the Trust which is available for NHS care after deductions for staff costs, capital costs etc)*

**As above, all income made form IPP work is reinvested into NHS Services. The Trust does not centrally hold the level of information requested**

2a) For each of the financial years 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19 please could you provide me with the percentage of the Trusts total private patient income which is spent on payments to consultants who are employed by the Trust. (For the sake of clarity we assume that consultants will receive an additional payment for providing private services on top of their NHS salary.)

**Consultants that undertake private patient services bill their private patients directly. The Trust provides a billing service on the consultants' behalf and the total sum billed is separate and not included in the £63.3m reported in the Annual Accounts.**

2b) Please could you provide me with the number of consultants employed by the Trust to whom a payment was made for providing private services in the year 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19 (i.e. a payment in addition to their NHS salary)

**The Trust does not hold this information as consultants, who undertake private patient activity are independent practitioners; they are not paid by the Trust to provide private practice services.**

2c) Please could you provide me with the largest amount paid to an individual consultant employed by the Trust as a result of providing private patient services in the years 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19

**As above – The Trust does not pay fees directly to consultants undertaking private practice.**

Please could you provide me with the total expenditure on consultants by the Trust for the provision of NHS services for the years 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18; 2018/19 and the total number of consultants employed by the Trust in this year.

**Please see total spend on consultants (including bank) covering the financial years specified in the following table:**

Financial Year	Cost £k IPP	Cost Trust	WTE IPP	WTE Trust
15/16	(48)	(40,396)	0.42	269.16
16/17	(46)	(43,835)	0.07	273.00
17/18	(108)	(46,946)	0.49	300.80
18/19	(143)	(46,386)	0.70	309.73

Please note:

The information you have been provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held on the date your request for information was received by the Trust.

We trust the information provided is sufficient and helpful in answering your questions, issues or concerns. Should you have any queries in relation to this request for information, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any correspondence relating to this request for information.

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Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information team**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

Email: [foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk)

**[Enclosed – Your Rights – See next page]**

**Your Rights**

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have received to your request for information, please contact the FOI team and quote your reference number on all correspondence relating to your request.

You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety Team  
Great Ormond Street Hospital  
LONDON  
WC1N 3JH

If, however, you remain dissatisfied with your response, you have the right to appeal the Information Commissioner as the final stage of the process. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF