

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 11th July 2025

FOI Ref No 29534

Requested Information:

1. Please provide the total amount spent on locum Doctors across all departments. for 2025 YTD and 2024
2. Can you break down the percentage spent on bank/locum Doctor spend on the last year (2024) to the most recent records you have, compared to the year before (2023)?
3. How many Doctor vacancies do you currently have within the Trust that have been vacant for over 6 months?
4. Do you have any cost-saving measures in place?
5. Locum-to-permanent ratio: How many locum doctors are currently employed versus permanent doctor staff, and what is the rationale for using locums instead of permanent?
6. Please share which departments have the highest locum doctor spend due to them not being able to fill hard-to-fill roles?

Response:

1. Total Spend on Agency Locums

April 2024 to March 2025 - £5,494,293.70

April 2025 to July 2025 - £1,248,531.86

2. Total Spend on Agency Locums April 2023 to March 2024 - £4,870,606.37

3. As of the 30/06/2025, when the Trust's most recent vacancy report was produced, Medical & Dental vacancies are as follows:

	Vacancy Gap WTE	Vacancy %
Acute & Emergency Medicine	35.42	12.39%
Anaesthetics Critical Care & Theatres	1.08	0.77%
Clinical Support	13.94	19.09%
Corporate	5.76	17.49%
General Surgery & Cancer	17.21	10.09%
Peripheral Sites	4.64	3.15%
Specialist Services & Surgery	9.45	5.91%
Women Children & HIV Services	1.93	1.66%

TRUST TOTAL	89.43	7.94%
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We are not able to report specifically on which of these have been vacant for > 6 months, but we can (anecdotally) confirm that we are aware of long-standing vacancies in the following specialities: Acute Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Eldercare, Cardiology, Neurology, Respiratory, Clinical Oncology, Microbiology, Breast Radiology, Paediatrics.

4. We are reducing demand wherever possible for agency medical workers and also for additional hours worked. In addition, we are working towards removing all agency that is not provided at the NHS capped rates.
5. 12 Agency locums currently working at the Trust. 1084 substantive medics employed by the Trust.
6. Breast Oncology

Attachment(s):

No Attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 8th August 2025