

10th April 2019

BY EMAIL

[REDACTED]

Our Ref: FOI 1033

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received on 26th March 2019 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to Payroll Services Centre (PSC) agency staff.

A list of current PSC agency staff is presented below:

- 1 * Project Support Officer (Band 5)
- 2 * Payroll Liaison (Band 5)
- 25 * Payroll Officer (Band 3)

Staff will be paid different amounts depending on start dates and increments. As the amounts may differ from one staff member to another, BSO therefore considers the release of this information exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Personal Information').

However, I wish to advise that agency staff are paid in line with Agenda for Change (AfC) terms and conditions. Please refer to the following for further information:

<https://jobs.hscni.net/Information/8/pay-bands-in-health-social-care>

In relation to amounts paid to recruitment agencies, I wish to advise that BSO considers this information exempt under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Commercially Sensitive'). As this is a qualified exemption, a Public Interest Test is attached.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.



In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

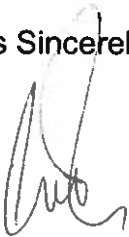
If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,



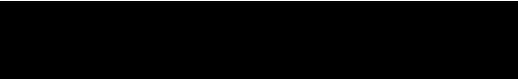
Liam McIvor
Chief Executive

Public Interest Test

Amounts paid to recruitment agencies	
Exemption claimed in respect of Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; Commercial Interests	
In favour of disclosure of information	In favour of not disclosing information
Details of public service recruitment processes require openness, transparency and accountability.	To publicly release the information sought would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of other parties.
	Disclosure may deter recruitment agencies from bidding for future opportunities. This in turn may impact on the quality of service provided to the public.
	Releasing this information could damage good commercial relations with the other parties.

9th July 2019

BY EMAIL



Tel: 028 9536 3863
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

Our Ref: FOI 1033

Dear 

I am writing in response to your request for a review of the above-referenced Freedom of Information request, received by the Business Services Organisation (BSO) on 24th June 2019.

I can advise that a review panel was convened on 4th July 2019 to discuss the matter. This panel consisted of Ms Julie Erskine (Chair) and Mr Simon McGrattan (Interim Director of Finance).

The panel recognised in relation to your email of 27th March 2019, that an answer had not been provided in relation to the question "whether or not the recruitment of Agency staff by the PSC is subject to any kind of scrutiny review"

The panel would like to confirm that after discussion with the Head of Shared Services that all Agency recruitment is subject to a scrutiny process.

The panel would like to confirm that it upholds the letter of 10th April 2019 from Liam McIvor to L Greenvale.

The panel trusts that this is of assistance and provides clarity to you.

If, following this internal review, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can contact Information Commissioner at:

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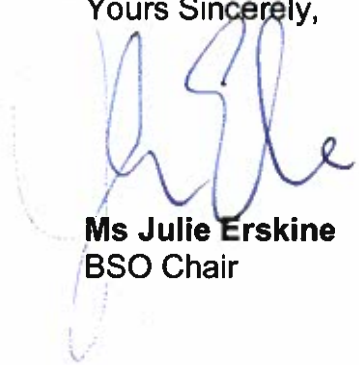
Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Erskine', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Ms Julie Erskine
BSO Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon McGrattan', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Mr Simon McGrattan
Interim Director of Finance