

**Freedom of Information Request****Ref: UHB 17-538**

Date 5 October 2017

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Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

**In relation to the 2016-17 financial year, please answer the following questions:**

**1. How many members of staff were absent for six-months or more due to (i) sickness and (ii) suspension?**

- i. **Sickness** - 67. Please note this refers to staff who have had 6 months off on a cumulative basis in 2016/17. Please also note the days off were not necessarily consecutive.
- ii. **Suspension** - 17

**2. What was the cost of paying the wages of the people who were absent for six-months or more because of (i) sickness and (ii) suspension.**

- i. **Sickness** - Approx. £854,165. Please note this figure is the total cost of sick pay for staff that were sick for 6 months or more in 2016/17. If the sickness started in 2015/16 but continued into 2016/17 for 6 months or more, then part of the cost will relate to 2015/16. This figure therefore is not necessarily an accurate figure.
- ii. **Suspension** - £108,227

**3. How many members of staff employed by the Trust that were absent from work for the entire financial year because of (i) sickness and (ii) suspension**

- i. **Sickness** – We do hold this information however as there are fewer than five individuals we will not be disclosing this information. Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. There therefore find that the **Section 40(2)** exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information
- ii. **Suspension** - None

**4. What was the cost of paying the wages of the people who were absent for the whole year because of (i) sickness and (ii) suspension.**

**i. Sickness - £101,847**

**ii. Suspension - £0**

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Trust Secretary  
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

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