

File reference	W16FOI613
Key words	Emergency cover over winter months
Date of release	16/11/2016
Attachments	No

Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

You asked

Could the Trust please confirm the following:

The Trust does not hold information in a written form, but is providing the following statements:

1. Is the Trust planning to use GPs within any of its emergency departments over the winter months?

The Trust, as of September 2016, has been employing local GPs on a locum basis, within the Derriford Emergency Department (ED), to manage selected primary care type patients. This will be ongoing over the winter months.

2. Has the Trust recruited/is the Trust planning to recruit GPs to staff its emergency departments over the winter months? If so, how many will be/have been recruited? If so, please confirm (i) the cost of recruitment and (ii) the planned duration of the post(s).

To date (25.11.16), two GPs have been recruited and a third is in process of being recruited. No distinct costs have been incurred. The planned duration is not yet known. These are locum hours only at present within a trial context. Future use of GPs within the emergency department will be subject to evaluation of the pilot and identification of ongoing funding.

3. If the Trust is planning to use GPs in A&E departments, how will they fit into the current system/how will they be used?

The GPs work within the minors area of the Emergency Department from a dedicated cubicle. The aspiration is to provide in the region of 16-24 hrs per week - namely 2-10pm Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays - all times for peak arrivals in the minors area. Nevertheless, in a typical week it has only proved possible to recruit on average for c. 10 hrs.

4. If the Trust is planning to use GPs in A&E departments, why is this necessary?

GPs can often manage the flow of minor illness supported by our emergency nurse practitioners that presents to our ED and therefore assist in the timely patient flow. The patient control management will reduce overcrowding and enhance patient safety, releasing expert emergency consultants to cope with the major presentations for the acutely and seriously unwell category.

Working alongside GP increases skill resources and will aid education moving forward.

5. If the Trust is NOT planning to use GPs in A&E departments, will it be necessary to employ more consultants/nurses/locums for this coming winter? If so, why?

Not applicable

Attachments included: No

Legal notes

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust is confirming in accordance with section 1 (a) of the Act that it does not hold the information requested. It has provided advice and assistance in accordance with section 16.