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Response introduction to temporary staffing issues

Temporary staffing

In addition to our own internal locum bank (for medical staff) and NHS Professionals (for nursing and non-medical staff), the Trust uses agency workers as a last resort when all other options have been explored, discounted and it is necessary to ensure appropriate standards of service delivery. The Trust will flex staff across departments as well as deploy temporary staff to ensure the continuation of a quality, safe service for patients.

In response to the caps on agency worker pay introduced in November 2015, the Trust is in regular conversation with agencies in order to work together to lower pay. Requests to use agency workers are scrutinised by the Executive team, to establish other routes of covering the work before using an agency worker. The Trust works collaboratively with other Trusts throughout the Southwest to drive down rates of pay across the region, undertaking regular review meetings.

You asked

Could you please let me know the locum agency spend from May 2016 – Present. This refers directly to the cardiology department only. The staff will be Cardiographers, Cardiac Physiologists, Echocardiographers, please note this is not referring to locum doctors or specialists.

Our reply

The total spend on locum agency staff within the cardiology department from 01 May 2016 to 31 May 2017 was £81,758.