



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1656

Date 06 September 2023

NHS CONSULTANTS WHO HAVE DECLARED TO DO PRIVATE WORK

Thank you for your request of 23 August 2023 for data about NHS consultants who have declared to do private work. We have handled your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Your specific request is set out in **Annex A** for reference.

We have searched our records and can confirm that we do not hold the information that you requested.

As you may know, our [Managing NHS hospital consultants](#) report published in 2013 did reference the extent of private practice work done by consultants. This was based on findings from surveys of hospital consultants and NHS trusts carried out by the NAO specifically for the study. The report also referred to previous surveys undertaken by the then Department of Health (now Department of Health and Social Care). However, as with almost all our studies, we do not collect data after studies have finished and we have no reason or plans to collect any of the data within the scope of your request.

I am sorry that we don't hold the specific information that you requested on this occasion, but I hope you find the explanation in this response helpful. **Annex B** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team

Annex A

Request for data about NHS consultants who have declared to do private work:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request a disclosure of the following information:

- the number of NHS consultants who have declared to do private work as part of their job plan out of all consultants employed in the NHS*
- the demographics of the consultants (age, gender, ethnicity) who have declared to do private work and have declared not to do private work*
- the specialties the NHS consultants practice in who have declared to do private work and have declared not to do private work*
- the hours of private work that were declared per consultant*
- the amount of income from private work that was declared per consultant in GBP*

Can you please provide this data per year for the years 2018 to 2023 and in a spreadsheet. If available, please provide a breakdown of the data by NHS trust. Thank you and I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

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 primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively you can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.