

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”)

Introduction and context for this request

Please find below a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”).

I am writing in relation to Secure Mental Health Transport Services in your Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and seeking to understand:

- Whether services are provided by in-house or outsourced providers.
- The annual spend of your Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust region on Secure Mental Health Transport Services.
- Who your current outsourced providers are and the duration of their current contracts.
- Your forward-looking budget for Secure Mental Health Transport Services

Defining Secure Mental Health Transport Services

This request is related to Secure Mental Health Transport Services. This is defined as:

- **Mental Health Transport:** Transport services provided for individuals requiring secure mental health transportation (from high to low secure psychiatric settings), including court escorts, attendance for hearings, transports to and from prisons, police stations, A&E departments and outpatient appointments.
- **Section 135 / 136:** Transport services provided for individuals being transported from the community to other settings under sections 135 or 136 of the Mental Health Act.

Freedom of Information request

The request is laid out in more detail below. There are five questions that I am submitting as part of this Freedom of Information request:

Question 1:

Are the Secure Mental Health Transport Services provided in your Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust region provided by an in-house or outsourced provider?

For the purposes of this question

- “In-house” is defined as transport that is provided directly by the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.
- “Outsourced” is defined as transport provided by third-parties. These may be privately owned organisations and/or public organisations such as NHS Ambulance Trusts.

Outsourced

Question 2:

What was the annual spend on Mental Health Transport Services in your Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust region over the past five years across both inhouse and outsourced providers? What journey and passenger volumes were associated with this spend?

The response to Question 2 should enable the following table to be completed. Please be clear in the response what time period is being referred to (i.e., calendar year vs. tax year)

Mental Health Transport	Units	FY 2019 /20	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
Spend value						
In-house	GBP	N/A				
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	GBP	This data is held by WM Ambulance Trust				

Outsourced (Other 3rd party)	GBP	£1,003,727.22	£917,992.43	£1,395,581.97	£1,621,130.08	£1,516,432.01
Total	GBP	£6,454,863.71				
Number of trips made						
In-house	Number	N/A				
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	Number	This data is held by WM Ambulance Trust				
Outsourced (Other 3rd party)	Number	2,720	2,546	3,254	4,594	1,498
Total	Number	14,612				
Number of unique patients served						
In-house	Number	N/A				
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	Number	This data is held by WM Ambulance Trust				

Outsourced (Other 3rd party)	Number	<p>The Trust is unable to provide a response this is because we do not collate the data in the requested format. Obtaining this information will require manual and exhaustive efforts.t 2000.</p> <p>The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p>
Total	Number	

Question 3:

What was the annual spend on Section 135 / 136 Transport Services in your Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust region over the past five years across both in-house and outsourced providers? What journey and passenger volumes were associated with this spend?

The response to Question 3 should enable the following table to be completed. Please be clear in the response what time period is being referred to (i.e., calendar year vs. tax year)

Section 135 / 136 Transport	Units	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Spend value						
In-house	GBP	<p>The Trust is unable to provide a response this is because we do not collate the data in the requested format. Obtaining this information will require manual and exhaustive efforts.t 2000.</p> <p>The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p>				
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	GBP					
Outsourced (Other 3rd party)	GBP					
Total	GBP					

Number of trips made		
In-house	Number	<p>The Trust is unable to provide a response this is because we do not collate the data in the requested format. Obtaining this information will require manual and exhaustive efforts.t 2000.</p> <p>The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p>
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	Number	
Outsourced (Other 3 rd party)	Number	
Total	Number	
Number of unique patients served		
In-house	Number	<p>The Trust is unable to provide a response this is because we do not collate the data in the requested format. Obtaining this information will require manual and exhaustive efforts.t 2000.</p> <p>The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p>
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	Number	
Outsourced (Other 3 rd party)	Number	
Total	Number	

Question 4:

If outsourced providers are used to deliver Secure Mental Health Transport Services in your region, please list the outsourced providers that are currently providing these services.

Please also specify for each provider:

- **The start and end date of their current contract (not including any extensions)**

01.05.24 – 31.03.25

- **Whether there is an optional extension period and how long this extension period is**

x2 3month extensions

- **How many bidders participated in the last tender round for each contract**

The Trust is unable to provide a response this is because we do not collate the data in the requested format. Obtaining this information will require manual and exhaustive efforts.t 2000.

The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Question 5:

What is your budgeted spend on Mental Health Transport and Section 135 / 136 Transport in the financial years, 2023-24 and 2024-25?

£1.3 million in each financial year – target is to reduce spend where possible