

May 2011

*1. The total annual amount spent by your institution on external providers (both private and other NHS) for patient treatment and care:*

*Please also include:*

- a. The total annual amount spent broken down by provider*
- b. The total annual spent broken down by specialty*

*Please provide the information every year for the last three years.*

*To clarify, when I refer to external providers I only mean those providers who are directly involved in the treatment of patients. External contracts for cleaning or hospital maintenance do not need to be included.*

The total amount paid to external (other) NHS providers is not recorded in a manner that can be obtained from our systems. However, the amounts involved are small because when patients are transferred to other NHS providers, for example specialist providers in London, it is those providers that are paid the appropriate tariff by the patient's commissioning NHS body.

As for external non-NHS providers we spent the following sums in the last three years.

- 2008-09 £105,813 (of which £3,985 was related to Orthopaedic procedures, the remainder to Gastroenterology endoscopies).
- 2009-10 £647,182 (of which £472,268 was related to Orthopaedics, the remainder to Gastroenterology).
- 2009-11 £107,351 (all of which was related to Orthopaedic procedures).

However, it must be noted that we were able to charge the agreed tariffs to the appropriate commissioners (in our case mostly NHS South East Essex) and therefore the Trust was not 'out of pocket' and neither were the Trust's commissioners.