

By email to: []

Date: 24 September 2021

Dear []

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 25 August 2021.

We understand this to be a request to the AHSN Network, the national network of Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs).

The AHSN Network is not a legal entity; it is an affiliation of the 15 local AHSNs and I understand you have also made the request to all AHSNs individually.

In this response I am able to provide information related to the national AHSN Network – any information about local AHSNs will be provided via their individual responses.

I will answer by setting out the request and then the AHSN Network's response:

Please could you provide us with the following information for the time period 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2021 (inclusive). If this exceeds the time/cost exemption, please could you just provide information for the period 1 January to 1 January 2019.

1. Details of any funded or sponsored posts in cardiology from charities, pharmaceutical or technology companies.

2. Details of any funded/sponsored/gifted equipment/software in cardiology.

3. Information about any educational events relating to cardiology which were sponsored by any pharmaceutical or technology companies, or sponsored by charities.

My response is related to an AHSN Network [national programme focusing on Atrial Fibrillation](#), which was a formal national programme covering a two-year period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020.

Whilst the AHSN Network did not receive financial support directly, funding was awarded by pharmaceutical companies to an events and medical education company, to organise and coordinate a series of events and a podcast in support of the programme.

As the funding was not received by the AHSN Network directly, we are not able to confirm the total amount or a breakdown of the expenditure. However, we can summarise the two projects it was allocated to:

1. Preventing AF Related Stroke – medical education events series and podcast

These meetings were supported financially by Bayer, Daiichi-Sankyo, and Pfizer Limited on behalf of the BMS-Pfizer Alliance; these companies had no input to the agenda, speakers, how the events were run and how the funding was spent. The companies had an exhibition presence at the meetings.

2. AF toolkit:

Funded by Bayer, Daiichi-Sankyo, and Pfizer Limited on behalf of the BMS-Pfizer Alliance; these companies had no input to the toolkit content, data tool or the online resources. The funds from these companies were used by the events and medical education company for the website and design development work of the online toolkit.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, please come back to me. You also have the right to request a decision from the Information Commissioner (ICO) as to whether we have discharged our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The ICO can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Burrows,
Coordination Director, AHSN Network