

Freedom of Information request 248-22

Request

I am looking for information regarding the use of locum nurses by your health board for the financial years 2017/18 to 2021/22.

By 'locum nurses' I mean any medical nurse employed through an agency or through an NHS bank, rather than by the health board. I would be grateful if these questions could be treated as separate FOIs.

In particular, can I request the following for the financial years 2017/18 to 2021/22:

- 1) The total locum agency spend, with a breakdown for locum nurses working in both acute settings and in primary care;
- 2) The total locum agency spend for nurses working in Accident and Emergency/ Emergency Departments;
- 3) The total number of shifts worked by locum nurses, with a breakdown by acute and primary care.
- 4) Please provide the 10 highest amounts of money paid by the Health Board to a locum nurses for working a single shift.
- 5) Names of each agency used by the Health Board to provide locum nurses.
- 6) Total amount of money paid by the Health Board to each of those agencies.

Response

1. Please find below total spend on both agency and bank nursing during each of the financial years split by Acute and Primary Care:

Area	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Acute	£2,548,053	£2,677,378	£2,260,152	£2,215,959	£2,776,414
Primary Care	£937,421	£880,334	£847,972	£1,029,536	£1,206,649

2. Please find below total spend of both Agency and Bank nursing during each of the financial years for Accident and Emergency (A&E):

Area	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
A&E	£73,448	£129,726	£132,816	£131,626	£85,086

3. NHS Borders do not record this level of detail on our electronic systems therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.

4. The information we hold is not in the format requested as the Finance System does not detail the charge for each individual shift but is a consolidated invoice from the relevant Agency Nursing supplier. To look for a similar hourly rate within all of the invoices received for agency nurse shifts worked during this time period would require a manual trawl and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 therefore under Section 12 cost of compliance we are not required to provide.

5&6 Please find below details of the total spend in each of the financial years for Agency costs by agency provider, however it should be noted that in November 2020 the Management of Bank and Agency staffing transferred to NHS Lothian therefore NHS Borders didn't; necessarily pay off the amounts detailed below to the specified agencies within those years.

Agency	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Bleep 360				£4,053	£7,124
Caddon Healthcare Ltd	£305				
Clarkson Infection Prev Consulting Ltd	£5,850	£16,660	£5,698		
Direct Medics Ltd	£5,040				
Globe Locums Ltd	£2,598	£431			
H1 Healthcare Solutions Ltd		£11,165	£8,715		
Head Resourcing Ltd		£2,550			
Health People Group Ltd				£3,658	
iCare24				£930	£18,138
ID Medical Group		£267,741	£403,081	£300,54	£439,437
Liquid Personnel Ltd		£2,405			
Mayday Healthcare Plc		£3,054	£357		
Medacs Healthcare Services Plc		£12,767	£14,640	£3,920	
MEdgen Ltd				£3,924	£8,890
NHS Lothian	£11,110	£3,810			
Pertemps Medical Ltd		£23,085			
Plan B Healthcare Plc			£11,469		£11,863
Pro Health 24 Ltd					£18,076
Pulse Healthcare Ltd	£3,611				
RMR Recruitment Ltd				£26,643	£53,298
Robinson Medical Recruitment	£40,337	£36,904	£4,400	£4,511	£17,198
Scottish Borders Council				£26,643	£53,298
Scottish Nursing Guild	£1,086,131	£636,746	£363,975	£430,994	£387,894
SOS Medical Ltd				£1,207	£398,448
The Placement Group	£5,291				
The Social Care Community Partnership		£2,347	£14,932	£29,281	£106,219
TXM Healthcare Limited				£1,224	
Your World Nursing			£2,169	£10,063	
Yourworld Recruitment				£31,638	£62,829

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **248-22** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information

Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.