

Freedom of Information request 702-22

Request

May I request information from you relating to your employees and the number of employees who spend any of their working hours on facility time for trade union activity. Could you provide me with the total number of your employees who use any part of their working hours for facility time. Could you also break down the percentage of working hours these employees spend on facility time (this could be in rough percentages such as 1-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, and 76-100%). For example, if 10 employees use any of their working hours on facility time could you tell me how many of the 10 employees use 1-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, and 76-100% of their working hours.

Response

NHS Borders publish data on our website on an annual basis. We follow the government template therefore may not break it down as much as the request seeks. Please see excerpt from the published data:

<i>Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period</i>	WTE employee number
- 2 - Ad hoc time	Not applicable (ad hoc time)
- 4 – dedicated time*	3.45

<i>Percentage of time</i>	Number of representatives
0%	-
1-50%	2
51-99%	-
100%	4

<i>Total cost of facility time</i>	£ 140,517
<i>Total pay bill</i>	£157,424,000
<i>Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100</i>	0.09%

In relation to union activities we have had 2 reps 1-25%, and 4 in 76-100% although this will be a combination of duties and activities. Under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 no further data is held in a format that can be extracted.

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 **702-22** 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.