

## Freedom of Information request 59-23

### Request

1. This year's most up-to-date figures for the total spend on agency nurses working in both acute settings and in primary care, and also the spend for the previous three years. For ease of collation, figures for each setting and year could be entered into the table below. (Not sure if you organise this data by calendar year or financial year, so the first column gives the option for either – please specify whether it's calendar or financial year)

YEAR	AREA	COSTS
Calendar year from January 2022 <b>or</b> from April 2022 to present day	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2022 <b>or</b> from April 2022 to present day	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2021 <b>or</b> from April 2021 to April 2022	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2021 <b>or</b> from April 2021 to April 2022	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2020 <b>or</b> from April 2020 to April 2021	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2020 <b>or</b> from April 2020 to April 2021	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2019 <b>or</b> from April 2019 to April 2020	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2019 <b>or</b> from April 2019 to April 2020	Primary care	

2. The total number of shifts worked by agency nurses, with a breakdown by acute and primary care, for the same timeframe. Again, for ease of collation, figures for each setting and year could be entered into the table below.

YEAR	AREA	TOTAL NUMBER OF SHIFTS
Calendar year from January 2022 <b>or</b> from April 2022 to present day	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2022 <b>or</b> from April 2022 to present day	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2021 <b>or</b> from April 2021 to April 2022	Acute settings	

Calendar year from January 2021 <b>or</b> from April 2021 to April 2022	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2020 <b>or</b> from April 2020 to April 2021	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2020 <b>or</b> from April 2020 to April 2021	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2019 <b>or</b> from April 2019 to April 2020	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2019 <b>or</b> from April 2019 to April 2020	Primary care	

**3. Please provide the highest amount of money paid by the Health Board to an agency nurse for working a single shift within the same timeframe as the questions above (i.e four calendar years or four financial years)**

YEAR	AREA	HIGHEST SINGLE SHIFT COST
Calendar year from January 2022 <b>or</b> from April 2022 to present day	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2022 <b>or</b> from April 2022 to present day	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2021 <b>or</b> from April 2021 to April 2022	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2021 <b>or</b> from April 2021 to April 2022	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2020 <b>or</b> from April 2020 to April 2021	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2020 <b>or</b> from April 2020 to April 2021	Primary care	
Calendar year from January 2019 <b>or</b> from April 2019 to April 2020	Acute settings	
Calendar year from January 2019 <b>or</b> from April 2019 to April 2020	Primary care	

## Response

1. The total spend by NHS Borders on Agency Nurses is:

YEAR	AREA	COSTS
From April 2022 to October 2022	Acute settings	£ 1,078,595.60
From April 2022 to October 2022	Primary care	£ 750.82
April 2021 to April 2022	Acute settings	£ 1,607,656.03
April 2021 to April 2022	Primary care	£ 3,486.48

April 2020 to April 2021	Acute settings	£	704,542.44
April 2020 to April 2021	Primary care	£	103,639.42
April 2019 to April 2020	Acute settings	£	761,011.22
April 2019 to April 2020	Primary care	£	36,330.60

Please note: Due to a recent upgrade and resulting issues in our reporting system we are unable to retrieve the figures after October 2022, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

2. NHS Borders do not record this level of detail in our electronic systems, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Also, in November 2020 the management of agency nursing staff transferred to NHS Lothian, therefore, under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere. For your information, please find a link to NHS Lothian [foi@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk).
3. The Finance System used by NHS Borders does not detail the charge for separate shifts, the entry is for a consolidated invoice from the relevant Agency Nursing supplier. To look for the highest amount paid to an individual within all the invoices received for agency nurse shifts worked during this 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.

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](mailto: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 **59-23** 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.