

Freedom of Information request 74-23

Request

1. How many Nursing and Midwifery locum shifts were advertised by this health board in NHS hospitals in 2022-23? Please provide this for each financial year since 2017-18.
2. In relation to Question 1, how many of these shifts were successfully filled? Please provide this for each financial year since 2017-18, including the current financial year.
3. In relation to question 2, how many of these shifts were filled by locums who were also directly employed 'in house' by the health board as a member of staff (You might find this article useful for clarification NHS nurse works extra agency shifts during holidays and weekends to afford energy bills | STV News). Please provide this for each financial year since 2017-18, including the current financial year.
4. In relation to Question 3, is there a cost associated with employing staff members to complete locum shifts? If so, please provide this. Please provide this for each financial year since 2017-18, including the current financial year.
5. Please provide the overall spend so far on agency staff in 2022/23. Please provide this for each financial year since 2017-18.

Response

1. – 4. NHS Borders did not record this level of detail for financial years 2017/18 to 2019/20 therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. In 2020, NHS Lothian took over the management of NHS Borders Agency Nurses, therefore, please note, 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 Freedom of Information [Freedom of Information \(FOI\) \(nhslothian.scot\)](https://www.nhs.uk/foi/nhslothian.scot).
5. The overall spend for agency staff by NHS Borders is:

Financial Year	Total Agency Spend
2017/18	£2,676,497
2018/19	£2,767,384
2019/20	£2,048,031
2020/21	£2,646,760
2021/22	£4,894,403
2022/23 to Dec 2022	£4,526,898

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 **74-23** 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.