

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NURSE SPECIALISTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Nurse Specialists within NHS Lothian.

Question:

- I would like to know the number of full-time-equivalent vacancies of Clinical Nurse Specialists (or Clinical Nurse Practitioner) and Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialists for each period in the last five years in the health board area, for the following areas of practice:
 - Adult Acute Care
 - Primary and Community Care
 - Mental Health
 - Paediatric Acute and Community Care
 - Neonatal

These roles are set out at Level 6 and Level 7 in the Scottish Government’s 2021 [review](#) of Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner Roles within Scotland.

Answer:

We are not able to provide information on the areas of practice as specified above. The closest service categorisation reportable through our systems is as set out below. The reporting periods are calendar year with 2024 from 1st January to 10th May.

Clinical Nurse Specialist												
Service - by Year	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE
Care of the Elderly	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Childrens Nursing	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.8
General Acute Nursing	15	14.3	29	27.43	29	28.63	42	34.38	27	26.4	3	3
Mental Health	0	0	0	0	1	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0



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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Calum Campbell
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

Nursing												
Paediatric Nursing	0	0	5	4.6	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Public Health Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.6	0	0	0	0
Sexual And Reproductive Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Specialist Nursing (Adult)	0	0	6	5.8	3	2	17	15.15	14	13.32	1	1
	15	14.3	41	38.83	36	34.43	60	50.13	43	41.72	5	4.8

Service - by Year	Clinical Nurse Practitioner											
	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE
Care of the Elderly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Childrens Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Acute Nursing	1	0.92	3	3	1	1	2	2	5	5	1	2
Mental Health Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paediatric Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Health Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual And Reproductive Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Specialist Nursing (Adult)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0.92	3	3	1	1	2	2	5	5	1	2

Service - by Year	Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialists											
	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE	Posts	WTE
Care of the Elderly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Childrens Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Acute Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.4	0	0	0	0
Mental Health Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paediatric Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Health Nursing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual And Reproductive Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Specialist Nursing (Adult)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.4	0	0	0	0

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive