

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – AGENCY DOCTORS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to spend on agency doctors in NHS Lothian.

Question:

I am looking for information regarding junior doctors. As such, can I request the following information, broken down, by the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24:

1. What was your total spend with recruitment agencies on F1 Doctors?

Answer:

NHS Lothian has not employed any agency F1 doctors in any of the years requested.

Question:

2. What was your total spend with recruitment agencies on F2 Doctors?

Answer:

Please see the table in answer to question 4 below.

Question:

3. How many F1 Doctors provided by agencies, and what was the average hourly charge rate to the Health Board?

Answer:

NHS Lothian has not employed any agency F1 doctors in any of the years requested.

Question:

4. How many F2 Doctors provided by agencies, and what was the average hourly charge rate to the Health Board?

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Agency F2 doctors, NHS Lothian				
Year	Number of doctors	Average hourly charge	Average tenure	Total spend
2019-20	76	£37.45	5 weeks	£870,531
2020-21	78	£38.18	8 weeks	£1,162,709
2021-22	69	£40.28	7 weeks	£630,943
2022-23	60	£45.80	5 weeks	£233,167
2023-24	57	£45.98	4 weeks	£374,429

Question:

5. What was the average tenure of an F1 Doctor provided by an agency?

Answer:

NHS Lothian has not employed any agency F1 doctors in any of the years requested.

Question:

6. What was the average tenure of an F2 Doctor provided by an agency?

Answer:

Please see the table in answer to question 4 above.

Question:

7. How many unfilled F1 and F2 Doctor posts?

Answer:

The table below details the average whole time equivalent (WTE) vacancy rate per month for FY1 and FY2 doctors.

Average WTE FY1 and FY2 monthly vacancy rate, NHS Lothian		
Year	FY1	FY2
2019	1.67	5.42
2020	0	2.67
2021	0	0
2022	1.42	0
2023	4.17	1.33

Question:

8. How many F1 Doctors was the trust short of post allocation from HEE/local deanery?

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not hold this information. You may be able to request this directly from NHS Education Scotland (NES) using the details available on their website here: <https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/legal-and-site-information/freedom-of-information/>

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 reviewer at the address at the top 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive