

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – AGENCY EXPENDITURE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to agency expenditure.

Question:

1. How much has the health board spent on agency or locum workers in the past financial year (April 1 2023 - March 31 2024)?

Answer:

Total Agency Costs	£24,730,466
Total Staff Bank Costs	£69,743,756
<i>These are the total cost for all staff groups</i>	

Question:

2. If it does not exceed the cost threshold, could you break down the number of shifts per general role? i.e. nursing, physician, etc.

Answer:

Grade	Total
Band 2 Car Park Att	83
Band 2 Non Reg Nurse	8671
Band 3 Catering	15
Band 3 Non Reg Nurse	14
Band 3 Pharmacy Ass	55
Band 4 Assist Pract	193
Band 5 A&C	235
Band 5 Audiologist	76
Band 5 Diag RAD	131
Band 5 ODP	2248
Band 5 Pharmacy Tech	519
Band 5 Reg Nurse	28485
Band 6 Audiologist	580

Band 6 Biomed Sci	742
Band 6 Diag RAD	18
Band 6 Pharmacist	125
Band 6 Physiologist	24
Band 6 Reg Nurse	16
Band 7 Biomed Sci	177
Band 7 Cardiac Perf	61
Band 7 Cardiac Phys	171
Band 7 Neuro Phys	16
Band 7 Pharmacist	248
Band 7 Physio	54
Band 7 Sonographer	1427
Band 7 Vascular Sci	55
Consultant Junior	1762
FY2	697
GP	102
ITS	3539
Specialty Dr	314
ST1	1565
ST2	60
ST3	239
Total	52717
This is Agency only as we do not currently have access to a Staff Bank breakdown.	

Question:

3. How much does the health board project to spend on agency or locum workers this financial year (April 1 2024 - March 31 2025)?

Answer:

Total Agency Costs	£618,762
Total Staff Bank Costs	£5,332,897
<i>These are the total cost for all staff groups in April 24</i>	

Question:

4. How many vacancies does the health board have per general role? i.e. nurse, physician, occupational therapist.

Answer:

This is publicly available via the following:-

[NHS Scotland workforce | Turas Data Intelligence](#)

The TURAS dashboard gives vacancy figures for AHP, Nursing/Midwifery, and Consultants, which are the groups that account for the majority of agency and bank.

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible.

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt 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 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive