

Date: 05/12/2025
Our Ref: 10815
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MIDWIFERY AND OBSTETRICS SHIFTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to midwifery and obstetrics agency shifts in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. How many midwifery shifts have gone unfilled after being put out for agency or bank cover, broken down by position and calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (most recent data).

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below for bank and for agency midwifery shifts. Please note that the categories for recording position changed over time. And 'registered midwife' is the same as band 5, 6, 7 and 8c. The information for agency staffing has only been recorded in this format since 2021.

Staff bank unfilled shifts, Midwifery, NHS Lothian							
Staff group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Band 4	10	5	7	22	78	130	249
Band 5	10	3	26	47	129	114	243
Band 6	161	128	382	573	1,523	1,006	3,088
Band 7	0	0	0	0	2	7	83
Band 8c	0	25	4	3	0	0	0
Consultant Midwife	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Nonregistered Other Clinical	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Registered Midwife	135	133	281	500	0	0	4

Agency unfilled shifts, Midwifery, NHS Lothian					
Staff group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Band 4	0	0	0	0	1
Band 5	0	1	12	2	1
Band 6	1	1	0	0	150
Band 7	0	0	0	0	3

Question:

2. How many obstetrics shifts have gone unfilled after being put out for locum cover, broken down by position (e.g. consultant, resident doctor) and calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (most recent data).

Answer:

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

Obstetrics unfilled agency shifts, NHS Lothian							
Staff group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
FY2	0	5	4	6	4	7	2
ST1	1	21	2	7	35	17	0
ST2	0	0	2	13	2	2	0
ST3+	4	7	0	24	43	11	0
Consultant	0	0	1	21	34	9	6

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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.nhslotthian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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