

Date 28/11/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10816

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – AGENCY

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

Question:

1. **Neutral Vend / Master Vend**

Do you use a Neutral Vend (NV) or Master Vend (MV) supplier for the following staff groups? If yes, please complete:

Staff Group	Supplier Name	Contract Expiry Date
Medical		
Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)		
Non-Medical, Non-Clinical (NMNC)		
Nursing		

Answer:

Not applicable.

Question:

2. **Direct Engagement (DE)**

Do you use a Direct Engagement supplier for any of the following staff groups? If yes, please complete:

Answer:

Staff Group	DE Provider	Contract Expiry Date	% of Agency Spend via DE
Medical	NHS Lothian - In house DE Model	N/A	100%
Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)	NHS Lothian - In house DE Model	N/A	100% of agency spend in AHP since 1st August 2025
Non-Medical, Non-Clinical (NMNC)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

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

Question:

3. **Agency Spend (Most Recent Financial Year)**

Please provide total agency spend (worker pay & agency commission only):

Staff Group	Total Spend (£)
Medical	
Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)	
Non-Medical, Non-Clinical (NMNC)	
Nursing	

4. **Agency Hours (Most Recent Financial Year)**

If you can access this information, please provide the total number of agency worker hours:

Staff Group	Total Hours Worked
Medical	
Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)	
Non-Medical, Non-Clinical (NMNC)	
Nursing	

Answer:

This information can be found via the following link:-

[Agency-Figures-2024-2025.pdf](#)

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.

Question:

5. **Contract Management**

For any Neutral Vend, Master Vend, or Direct Engagement contracts in place, please provide:

- Name of lead contact/responsible officer:
- Job title:
- Email address:

Answer:

Not applicable as we do not provide these functions.

I hope the information provided helped 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
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive