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Date 31/12/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10896

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – COMMUNITY NURSING QUALIFICATIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to community nursing qualifications.

Question:

- I would like to make a Freedom of Information request on behalf of the Royal College of Nursing. This relates specifically to community nursing and post registration qualifications to support career development.

The purpose of this Freedom of Information request is to seek data on the numbers of community-based nurses being provided access to education and leadership programmes to enhance their development opportunities and additional information on this topic.

Answer:

Please see enclosed spreadsheet.

Please note that some of the information is held by NES and Not NHS Lothian. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

I hope the information provided helps with your request. I am sorry I cannot help 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](http://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**  
Cc: Chief Executive  
Enc.

Dear NHS Lothian FOI team

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request on behalf of the Royal College of Nursing. This relates specifically to community nursing and post registration qualifications to support career development.

The purpose of this Freedom of Information request is to seek data on the numbers of community-based nurses being provided access to education and leadership programmes to enhance their development opportunities and additional information on this topic.

## 1. Please provide the number of nurses employed by the NHS Board who were funded by the NHS Board to start community nursing qualifications each year from 2020 to 2025 to date:

	20-21 WTE	21-22 WTE	22-23 WTE	23-24 WTE	24-25 WTE	25-26 (YTD Nov) WTE
Specialist Practitioner Qualification (SPQ) District Nursing	13.00	6.00	8.00	10.00	8.00	7.00
Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) Health Visiting qualification	17.00	20.00	24.00	16.00	16.00	18.00
Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) School Nursing qualification	3.00	3.00	15.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

Notes: Qualification crosses more than one financial year. The financial year that the nurses began their qualification used for the above table. Section 17

8 additional Health Visitors will begin qualification in Jan 26.

## 2. Please provide the number of nurses employed by the NHS Board who completed community nursing qualifications each year from 2020 to 2025 to date:

	20-21 Headcount	21-22 Headcount	22-23 Headcount	23-24 Headcount	24-25 Headcount	25-26 (YTD Nov) Headcount
Specialist Practitioner Qualification (SPQ) District Nursing	7	4	4	6	complete 3/26	complete 3/27
Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) Health Visiting qualification	17	16	19	17	16	15
Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) School Nursing qualification		3	3	13	3	4
Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: School Nursing 20/21 Figures not held

Community Nursing Graduate Diploma and Certificate qualifications are co-ordinated via NES and data not available at Board level. Section 17

## 3. For district nursing staff employed by the NHS Board please provide:

a. Number (headcount) by each Agenda for Change at Band 5 and above with the following qualifications

- Specialist Practitioner Qualification (SPQ) District Nursing
- Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma)
- Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate)

b. Number of district nursing staff (headcount) by each Agenda for Change Band at Band 5 and above

3a	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8a	Band 8b
Specialist Practitioner Qualification (SPQ) District Nursing	0	147	43	6	0
Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma)					
Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate)					

  

3b	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8a	Band 8b
District nursing staff (headcount)	299	147	43	6	1

Note: Community Nursing Graduate Diploma and Certificate qualifications are co-ordinated via NES and data not available at Board level. Section 17

DN qualification figures based on e-Ess download for all current B6s and above

## 4. For health visiting staff employed by the NHS Board please provide:

a. Number (headcount) by each Agenda for Change at Band 5 and above with the following qualifications

- Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) Health Visiting qualification
- Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma)
- Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate)

b. Number of health visiting staff (headcount) by each Agenda for Change band at Band 5 and above

4a	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8a	Band 8b
Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) Health Visiting qualification	0	0	277	2	2
Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma)					
Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate)					

  

4b	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8a	Band 8b
Health visiting staff (headcount)	6	11	277	2	2

Note: Community Nursing Graduate Diploma and Certificate qualifications are co-ordinated via NES and data not available at Board level. Section 17

HV qualification figures based on e-Ess download for all current B7 and above

## 5. For school nursing staff employed by the NHS Board please provide:

a. Number (headcount) by each Agenda for Change at Band 5 and above with the following qualifications

- Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) School Nursing qualification
- Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma)
- Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate)

b. Number (headcount) of school nursing staff by each Agenda for Change at Band 5 and above

5a	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8	Band 8b
Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) School Nursing qualification	0	28	3	0	0
Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma)					
Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate)					

  

5b	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8a	Band 8b
School nursing staff (headcount)	32	28	3	0	0

Note: Community Nursing Graduate Diploma and Certificate qualifications are co-ordinated via NES and data not available at Board level. Section 17

School Nursing qualification figures based on e-Ess download for all current B6s and above

6. We have considered community qualifications in light of the range of nursing in the independent health and social care sector, such as care homes and general practice.

We would however specifically like to hear from the NHS Board in relation to prison nurses employed by the NHS Board.

Please provide the number of nurses working in prisons who are employed by the NHS Board who completed a) the Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma) and b) Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate) in the years outlined in the table

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 to date (Nov 25)
Community Nursing (Graduate Diploma)						
Community Nursing (Graduate Certificate)						

Note: Community Nursing Graduate Diploma and Certificate qualifications are co-ordinated via NES and data not available at Board level. Section 17

## 7. Does the NHS Board have designated General Practice Nursing lead post(s)? If Yes, please provide the

- a. number of posts - 1 post employed by NHS Lothian and 4 HSCP Leads within locality areas
- b. whole time equivalent (WTE) 0.75 NHS Lothian employed, various arrangements for HSCPs Leads circa 4 hours per week each
- c. job title(s) Senior Nurse for General Practice Nursing NHS Lothian, Locality GPN Lead Nurses HSCP
- d. and if staff are currently in post - Yes, all posts filled

## 8. Does the board have Nurse Consultant post(s) for community nursing? If Yes, please provide the

- a. number of posts - 1 post specifically for Community Nursing
- b. whole time equivalent (WTE) - 1
- c. job title(s) Nurse Consultant Adv Practice Primary & Comm Care
- d. and if staff are currently in post - Yes, in post

ii) If there are no current Nurse Consultant post(s) in community nursing, are these role(s) being considered by the NHS Board?

N/A