

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADVANCED PRACTITIONERS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to advanced practitioners in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Please provide the total number of advanced practitioners employed in your Trust/Board for each of the years 2021 to 2025. If possible, please break this information down by department or specialty.

Answer:

227 Advanced Nurse Practitioners were employed in NHS Lothian as of September 2025. This includes secondary care and some community roles, but does not include GP practice staff or other independent contractors as these employ their own practice staff. We do not hold robust data for previous years.

We are unable to provide data for Advanced Nurse Practitioners as it is not possible to identify all advanced nurse practitioners from the employment information recorded on our systems.. Information will be held in individual department records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each department record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

2. a) Please could you provide the salary range for advanced practitioners employed in your Trust/Board for each of the years 2021 to 2025.

Answer:

The salary range will depend on the individual role. In NHS Scotland Advanced Nurse Practitioners are typically employed at agenda for change band 7, although some may progress to band 8. In primary care, these roles tend to be at band 8. Advanced practitioners in Allied Health Professions are also typically employed at band 7, sometimes band 8A.

Question:

b) Please could you provide the total salary expenditure for advanced practitioners employed in your Trust/Board for each of the years 2021 to 2025.

Answer:

We are unable to provide data for Advanced Nurse Practitioners as it is not currently possible to easily identify all such practitioners from the employment information recorded on our systems. Information will be held in individual department records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each department record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

As described above, there is no coding on the payroll system which would allow information to be extracted on the expenditure on advanced practitioners in the Allied Health Professions.

Question:

3. Please could you provide the total number of hours worked by advanced practitioners employed in your Trust/Board for each of the years 2021 to 2025.

Answer:

We are unable to provide data for Advanced Nurse Practitioners as it is not currently possible to easily identify all such practitioners from the employment information recorded on our systems. Information will be held in individual department records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each department record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

As described above, there is no coding on the payroll system which would allow information to be extracted on the expenditure on advanced practitioners in the Allied Health Professions.

Question:

4. a) Please could you provide us with any existing documentation which describes the job duties and responsibilities of advanced practitioners within your Trust/Board.

Answer:

Each role will be advertised with its own job description. I have enclosed two example templates for community and hospital advanced nurse practitioners and three examples for Allied Health Professionals advanced practitioners.

Question:

b) If not covered in existing documentation, please confirm whether in your Trust/Board advanced practitioners ever

- i) make referrals to other specialties
- ii) hold crash / emergency bleeps

Answer:

Advanced Nurse Practitioners may make referrals to other specialties, and may hold crash or emergency bleeps. Allied Health Professional advanced practitioners may make referrals to other specialities, but do not hold crash or emergency bleeps.

Question:

5. Within your Trust/Board, please could you tell us

- a) if advanced practitioners are ever deployed on medical rotas
- b) if advanced practitioners are permitted to cover doctor rota gaps
- c) what grade of doctors advanced practitioners are permitted to cover for
- d) if merged/tiered/general rotas with mixed staffing groups are used and if so, which types and grades of clinicians appear on these rotas.

Answer:

Band 8B Advanced Nurse Practitioners who are Advanced Critical Care Practitioners or Advanced Neonatal Practitioners will work alongside consultant rotas. Some Advanced Paediatric Nurse Practitioners will also do this depending on their role.

Advanced practitioners in the Allied Health Professions are not on doctors or mixed staff rotas.

Question:

6. a) Please provide us with a copy of bank shift rotas currently used for all medical and non-medical roles within your Trust/Board

Answer:

There are no separate rotas for bank staff, bank staff are used to fill gaps in the department rotas.

Question:

b) Please provide us with the current hourly rate-range paid to advanced practitioners working bank shifts in your Trust/Board, broken down by years of service if applicable.

Answer:

Bank staff are paid the same agenda for change rate for bank shifts as per their substantive post for the role being undertaken. We have no Advanced Practitioners on the bank that do also not hold a substantive post.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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