

Date 24 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – UNFILLED SHIFTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to unfilled shifts.

Question:

- Can I request, broken down by the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 (most recent data):
 1. How many midwifery shifts have gone unfilled after being put out for agency or bank cover, broken down by position.
 2. How many obstetrics shifts have gone unfilled after being put out for locum cover, broken down by position (e.g. consultant, resident doctor).

Answer:

Midwifery Year	Midwives - Unfilled Shifts	Maternity Care Assistant - Unfilled Shifts	Total - Unfilled Midwifery Shifts
2019	369	13	382
2020	264	5	269
2021	609	6	615
2022	1076	20	1,096
2023	1561	82	1,643
2024	1038	130	1,168
2025	3635	269	3,904
2026	1580	120	1,700

Medial Locums Year	Resident Doctor - Unfilled Shifts	Consultant - Unfilled Shifts	Total - Unfilled Locum Shifts
2019	0	0	0
2020	19	4	23
2021	9	16	25
2022	11	33	44
2023	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0
2025	0	0	0
2026	1	0	1

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
Cc: Chief Executive