Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG
www.nhslothian.scot

Date 3 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12002

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – AGENCY SHIFTS

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

Question:

1. The total spending on agency nursing/midwifery staff and total spending on agency medical and dental staff.
    a. The total spending on internal bank staff for these same groups.
    b. The number of agency shifts worked by each group.
2. The highest hourly rate (or per shift rate) paid to an agency for any nursing and any medical shift in each period, and the number of shifts booked above any applicable national price cap/framework rate.
3. Any record of shifts that were agency filled due to bank requests going unfulfilled.
4. Any reports/papers on the board's agency spending presented to its finance/staff governance/audit committees.

Answer:

Please see enclosed spreadsheet.

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
Enc.

Q1 a. The total spending on agency/bank nursing/midwifery staff and medical and dental staff.

		Total Spend 21/22 £'000	Total Spend 22/23 £'000	Total Spend 23/24 £'000	Total Spend 24/25 £'000	Total Spend 25/26 £'000	Total Spend M01 26/27 £'000	Total Spend M02 26/27 £'000	Total Spend M03 26/27 £'000	Total Spend M04 26/27 £'000	Total Spend M05 26/27 £'000	Total Spend M06 26/27 £'000
Agency	Nursing	8,359	19,214	22,738	4,500	2,536	69	41	46	43	40	35
	Medical & Dental	5,679	4,451	3,813	2,263	2,091	186	230	252	266	285	203
Agency Total		**14,037**	**23,666**	**26,552**	**6,763**	**4,627**	**255**	**271**	**298**	**310**	**324**	**238**
Bank	Nursing	42,743	45,668	54,717	58,072	63,332	4,891	4,901	6,158	5,009	6,096	5,199
	Medical & Dental	9,817	8,514	10,191	9,723	9,449	633	632	765	686	800	583
Bank Total		**52,560**	**54,182**	**64,908**	**67,795**	**72,780**	**5,523**	**5,533**	**6,923**	**5,696**	**6,896**	**5,782**

Q1 b. The number of agency shifts worked by each group

Financial Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Current Fi	April	May	June	July	August	September
Medical	8062	5741	4737	2243	2540	**Medical**	278	272	296	342	244	184
Dental	0	0	0	0	0	**Dental**	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nursing & Midwifery	15738	42829	37757	7912	6830	**Nursing &**	85	67	17	20	13	14

2. The highest hourly rate (or per shift rate) paid to an agency for any nursing and any medical shift in each period, and the number of shifts booked above any applicable national price cap/framework rate.

		Highest Hourly Rate 21/22 £	Highest Hourly Rate 22/23 £	Highest Hourly Rate 23/24 £	Highest Hourly Rate 24/25 £	Highest Hourly Rate 25/26 £	Highest Hourly Rate M01 26/27 £	Highest Hourly Rate M02 26/27 £	Highest Hourly Rate M03 26/27 £	Highest Hourly Rate M04 26/27 £	Highest Hourly Rate M05 26/27 £	Highest Hourly Rate M06 26/27 £
Agency	Nursing	143	156	126	75	64	55	57	57	43	44	44
	Medical & Dental	257	156	138	164	147	141	141	141	163	141	141

No national price cap in NHS Scotland

3. Any record of shifts that were agency filled due to bank requests going unfulfilled.

As per response to Question 1b (all agency shifts are sent bank prior to being escalated to agency).

4. Any reports/papers on the board's agency spending presented to its finance/staff governance/audit committees.

The Finance Department does not produce a specific report or paper dedicated solely to bank and agency expenditure for presentation to the Finance, Staff Governance or Audit Committees. Financial reports and papers presented to these committees generally cover a range of financial matters and may include information relating to bank and agency expenditure alongside other areas of financial performance. Such reports are prepared for broader financial management, strategic planning and organisational purposes and may also contain sensitive information.