Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
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Date 2 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12006

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – AGENCY SPEND

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

Question:

1. How much did the organisation spend on agency (non-contract) staff and internal bank staff for the financial year 25/26 (April 2025 - March 2026)? Please fill in the spend in the table below for each staffing group and total.

2. How much did the organisation spend on Waiting List Initiative (WLI) and Overtime payments to staff *(WLI payments refers to any sessional payments made for additional time worked under a system called the Waiting List Initiative, used by trusts to reduce waiting lists and meet government targets. Overtime payments are defined as any payment for additional time beyond the standard FTE for the grade)*. Please fill in the spend and number of sessions/hours in the below table for each staffing group and total.

Answer:

Staffing Groups	Q1. Temporary Staff Spend		Q2. Waiting List Initiative & Overtime Spend			
	Agency Spend (£)	Bank Spend (£)	WLI Payments to staff (£)	WLI Sessions (No.)	Overtime Payments to Staff (£)	Overtime Hours (No.)
Total	5,718,456	82,728,416	1,727,036		7,560,712	246,978
Medical and Dental	2,114,327	9,321,281	1,723,492		233,352	4,703
Nursing and Healthcare Assistants	2,458,170	63,629,012	3,544		2,440,015	69,990
Administration and Estates	577,698	3,745,736	0		3,601,153	137,314
Healthcare Science	316,056	884,412	0		357,167	9,543
Scientific, Therapeutic and Technical Staff	252,205	5,147,976	0		929,025	25,428

(STT) inclusive of Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)						
Ambulance staff	0	0	0		0	0

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