

30 October 2023

Agency Nursing and Spend

- 1. Please confirm how many shifts were sent out for agencies to fill (per month), for Band 5 between Jan 23 – Sept 23 by discipline, i.e. General, A&E, ITU, paediatrics?**

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested, as it is not currently captured in this way. However, we can confirm the total number of shifts sent out to agencies per month for all Band 5 Nursing Registrants (inclusive of General, A&E, ICU & Paediatrics) is:

Agency	Total
Jan-23	6965
Feb-23	6000
Mar-23	6316
Apr-23	5576
May-23	5102
Jun-23	5034
Jul-23	4719
Aug-23	4778
Sep-23	5030

- 2. Please confirm how many of these shifts were filled by agencies per month for the same timespan as detailed in Q1. (Please can this be broken down per agency?)**

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested, as it is not currently captured in this way. However, we can confirm the total number of shifts sent out to agencies per month for all Band 5 Nursing Registrants (inclusive of General, A&E, ICU & Paediatrics) is:

Agency	Filled
Jan-23	5648
Feb-23	4884
Mar-23	5235
Apr-23	4374
May-23	4007
Jun-23	3780
Jul-23	3348
Aug-23	3369
Sep-23	3452

30 October 2023

3. Please confirm how many hours throughout the timescale detailed in Q1 were filled by off-framework agencies? Can this also be broken down per month?

Please see below the hours filled by off-framework agencies, broken down per month.

Please see attached excel spreadsheet, this provides the list of agencies utilised, including off-framework agencies, we can only provide the hours totals for each month.

To provide the off-framework agency hours per month would be commercially sensitive.

Exemption 43 Commercial Interests

Section 43(2) states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

In accordance with the FOI Act 2000 we cannot fulfill this part of your request under Section 43 Commercial Interest. The arguments to maintain this exemption outweigh the arguments for disclosure. Its disclosure would be prejudicial to the commercial interest of the agency providers.

Off-framework
Agency

Jan-23 - 69,487
Feb-23 - 62,319
Mar-23 - 67,945
Apr-23 - 59,771
May-23 - 41,440
Jun-23 - 22,573
Jul-23 - 16,526
Aug-23 - 15,519
Sep-23 - 13,202

4. Between Jan 23 – Sept 23, what was the trust spend per month, for each agency supplier?

Please see attached excel spreadsheet. We can only provide the totals overall for each month and the total spend for each agency.

30 October 2023

To provide the agency spend per month would be commercially sensitive. To give this level of detail would identify payment structures.

Exemption 43 Commercial Interests

Section 43(2) states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

In accordance with the FOI Act 2000 we cannot fulfill this part of your request under Section 43 Commercial Interest. The arguments to maintain this exemption outweigh the arguments for disclosure. Its disclosure would be prejudicial to the commercial interest of the agency providers.

5. Please confirm the average charge rate across Jan 23 – Sept 23 period for a Band 5 General Nurse.

£56.67 average charge rate for B5 Nurse Jan – May 23
£50.15 average charge rate for B5 Nurse Jun – Sept 23