

15 April 2024

Staffing Levels at Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre Belfast City Hospital & Beechcroft CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)

In 2023 and 2024 how many shifts were covered by Band 2 Nursing Assistants in AMHIC and Beechcroft CAMHS?

Belfast Trust do not employ Band 2 staff in this service area. However we have, on occasions, used Band 2's through Bank/Agency. Our system reports bookings by Band 2 grade staff for the areas mentioned within this request as follows:

- 1,398 shifts booked during the financial year 2023/2024

For context, where shifts are a long day, combination on an early and a late, the system reports these as two shifts. Belfast Trust is unable to break this down any further.

In 2023 how many of these staff were trained in MAPA/safety intervention techniques?

It would take more than 18 hours to retrieve training records for the volume of temporary staffing of this nature.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

We can, however, confirm that bank and agency workers utilised in mental health should be compliant in safety intervention training. In exceptional circumstances whereby the resource pool of workers is exhausted, workers with experience in mental health settings may have been utilised whereby their safety intervention training has expired awaiting renewal or a worker is awaiting a course. The service would be responsible for assessing and managing the risk associated with staff allocation.