

21 March 2024

Agency Shifts

- 1. Please confirm how many shifts were sent out to agencies on Tier 1 to fill per week for Band 5 from 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023 (excluding MH, LD, A&E and ICU).**

The Belfast Trust can confirm the following data:

A total of 4675 shifts were requested from both tier 1 and tier 2 of the nurse framework for the month of October 2023

A total of 4035 shifts were requested from both tier 1 and tier 2 of the nurse framework for the month of November 2023

A total of 3975 shifts were requested from both tier 1 and tier 2 of the nurse framework for the month of December 2023

- 2. Please confirm how many shifts were sent out to agencies on Tier 2 to fill per week for Band 5 from 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023 (excluding MH, LD, A&E and ICU).**

The Belfast Trust can confirm the following data:

A total of 4675 shifts were requested from both tier 1 and tier 2 of the nurse framework for the month of October 2023

A total of 4035 shifts were requested from both tier 1 and tier 2 of the nurse framework for the month of November 2023

A total of 3975 shifts were requested from both tier 1 and tier 2 of the nurse framework for the month of December 2023

- 3. Please confirm the number of shifts filled by Tier 1 from 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023 (excluding A&E and ICU).**

The Belfast Trust can confirm the following data:

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A total of 1994 shifts were filled from tier 1 of the nurse framework for the period 1st October 2023 – 31st December 2023

4. Please confirm the number of shifts filled by Tier 2 from 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023 (excluding A&E and ICU).

A total of 9210 shifts were filled from tier 2 of the nurse framework for the period 1st October 2023 – 31st December 2023

5. Please confirm that all vacancies are sent out at the same time to all agencies in Tier 1.

The Belfast Trust can confirm shift requests are sent collectively to agencies in Tier 1 of the nurse framework

6. Please confirm that all vacancies are sent out at the same time to all Tier 2 agencies.

The Belfast Trust can confirm shift requests are sent collectively to agencies in Tier 1 of the nurse framework

7. Please confirm on average how many days/hours in advance is Tier 1 agencies notified of a vacancy from 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023.

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested, as it is not captured in this way. However, we can confirm all shifts are sent to agencies within Tier 1, when temporary staffing has been approved for use of agency. The use of agencies is strictly controlled and every effort is made to backfill vacant shifts with our own staff working additional hours, overtime and our nurse bank employees.

8. Please confirm on average how many days/hours in advance is Tier 2 agencies notified of a vacancy from 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023.

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested, as it is not captured in this way. However, we can confirm all shifts are sent to agencies within Tier 1, when temporary staffing has been approved for use of agency. The use of

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agencies is strictly controlled and every effort is made to backfill vacant shifts with our own staff working additional hours, overtime and our nurse bank employees.

9. Please confirm how many block booking opportunities were offered to Tier 1 agencies from 15 May 2023 – 31 December 2023.

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. We have completed a Public Interest Test. The arguments to maintain this exemption outweigh the arguments for disclosure. Its disclosure would be prejudicial to the commercial interest of the agency providers.

10. If none were offered, please outline why?

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested as we do not explicitly utilise agency for block bookings or long term lines of work, the use of agencies is strictly controlled and every effort is made to backfill vacant shifts with our own staff working additional hours, overtime and our nurse bank employees.

Please confirm how many block booking opportunities were offered to Tier 2 agencies from 15 May 2023 – 31 December 2023.

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. We have completed a Public Interest Test. The arguments to maintain this exemption outweigh the arguments for disclosure. Its disclosure would be prejudicial to the commercial interest of the agency providers.

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11. If none were offered, please outline why?

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested as we do not explicitly utilise agency for block bookings or long term lines of work, the use of agencies is strictly controlled and every effort is made to backfill vacant shifts with our own staff working additional hours, overtime and our nurse bank employees.

12. Please confirm how many block booking have been filled by Tier 1 agencies from 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023.

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested as we do not explicitly utilise agency for block bookings or long term lines of work, the use of agencies is strictly controlled and every effort is made to backfill vacant shifts with our own staff working additional hours, overtime and our nurse bank employees.

13. Please confirm how many block booking have been filled by Tier 1 agencies from 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023.

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested as we do not explicitly utilise agency for block bookings or long term lines of work, the use of agencies is strictly controlled and every effort is made to backfill vacant shifts with our own staff working additional hours, overtime and our nurse bank employees.

14. Please confirm the nursing vacancy rate for Belfast Trust.

Belfast Trust can confirm the overall Nurse Vacancy rate is currently at 14%, The Band 5 Nurse vacancy rate is currently 8%, and these figures represent the position at the end of December 2023.