

20 November 2024

## Health Care Assistant Agency Shifts

**1. Please confirm how many shifts were sent out for locum agencies to fill (per month), for Band 2 and Band 3 HCAs for the months April – September 2024 by discipline, i.e. General, A&E, ITU, Paediatrics?**

Belfast Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested broken down by discipline as it would take more than 18 hours in locating, retrieving, and extracting the information in this manner as it is not currently captured in this way. We estimate that compliance with this request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information. However, we can confirm the total number of shifts sent out to agencies per month for all Health Care Assistants (HCAs) inclusive of General, A&E, ICU & Paediatrics is:

Months	Shift Requests to Agency (Band 2 & 3)
April	9540
May	10076
June	9923
July	10209
August	10452
September	9692

**2. Please confirm how many of these shifts were filled by agencies per month for the same time span as detailed in question 1. (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 filled by agencies per month for all HCAs is:

Months	Number of Shifts filled
April	8163
May	8767
June	7607
July	7762
August	7917
September	7387

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**3. Please confirm how many shifts throughout the timescale detailed in question 1 were filled by off-framework agencies? Can this also be broken down per month?**

Belfast Trust can confirm it does not utilise off-framework agencies for Health Care Assistants working at Belfast Trust.

**4. Between April – September 2024, what was the trust spend per month, for each agency supplier?**

Providing the agency spend per month, per supplier, would be commercially sensitive. To give this level of detail would identify payment structures. The total spend for the period April to September 2024 is attached with this document.

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.