

21 August 2025

Nursing Agency Spend

- 1. Please confirm how many shifts were sent out for agencies to fill (per month) for Band 5 from February 2025 to May 2025 by discipline, i.e. General, A&E, ITU, Paediatrics?**

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust are unable to provide the information you have requested by discipline, 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 and Paediatrics) – see below:

Month	Shift Requests
February 2025	4941
March 2025	5768
April 2025	4919
May 2025	5312

- 2. Please confirm how many of these shifts were filled by agencies per month (please can this be broken down per agency)?**

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is unable to provide the number of shifts filled by agency, as this information is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43 – Commercial Interests.

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 Freedom of Information 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.

However, we can confirm the total number of shifts filled by agencies per month for all Band 5 Nursing Registrants, as follows:

Month	Shifts Filled
February 2025	4644
March 2025	5145
April 2025	4562
May 2025	4648

21 August 2025

3. Please confirm how many shifts from February 2025 to May 2025 were filled by off-framework agencies? Can this also be broken down per month?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is unable to provide the number of shifts filled, per month, exclusively by off-framework agencies, as this information is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43 – Commercial Interests.

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 Freedom of Information 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.

However, we can confirm the total number of shifts filled by all agencies; this is inclusive of off-framework agencies, broken down by month:

Month	Shifts Filled
February 2025	4644
March 2025	5145
April 2025	4562
May 2025	4648

4. From February 2025 to May 2025, what was the Trust spend per month, for each agency supplier?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust can confirm the total Trust spend for agency, for the combined period February 2025 to May 2025 was £20,643,764. Please see attached spreadsheet for information – 34358 – Nursing Agency Spend - Attachment one.

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 Freedom of Information 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.