Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/38067

19 October 2026

Certification of Sponsorship Statistics

1. How many Certificate of Sponsorships have been issued by the NHS in the last year and 5 years, i.e. full calendar year 2024 to 2025 and also 2020 to 2025.

- January 2024 to January 2025 – Belfast Trust issued 218 Certificates of Sponsorship.

- January 2020 to January 2025 – the information requested is not available through a standard report and to provide it would require significant manual analysis of individual records.

  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.

2. Do the NHS help with Visas and giving Sponsorship and to all grades?

Belfast Trust holds a Home Office Sponsor Licence and considers requests for visa sponsorship from applicants and existing staff in line with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) Regulations and Trust procedures.

Sponsorship may be available for posts irrespective of grade, provided the relevant UKVI eligibility requirements are met and the individual can fulfil the contractual obligations of the post.