

29 October 2021

Trust Covid-19 Vaccination Centres - Costs re Transport, Incentives for Vaccination, Staffing & Adverse Reactions at Vaccination and Urgent Care Centre

- 1. How much has the Trust spent on buses to bring people to and from vaccination centres?**

Belfast Trust has spent £81k from December 2020 to date.

- 2. How much has the Trust spent on taxis to bring people to and from the vaccination centres?**

Belfast Trust does not provide taxis for this purpose.

- 3. How many people received a free ice cream after the first dose of a Covid vaccination at each Trust vaccination centre since 1st July?**

Belfast Trust did not supply free ice cream

- 4. How many people received a free ice cream after the second dose of a Covid vaccination at each Trust vaccination centre since 1st July?**

Belfast Trust did not supply free ice cream

- 5. What was the total cost for ice cream per day, for people who received a first dose of Covid vaccination at each Trust vaccination centre since 1st July?**

Belfast Trust did not supply free ice cream

- 6. What was the total cost for ice cream per day, for people who received a second dose of Covid vaccination at each Trust vaccination centre since 1st July?**

Belfast Trust did not supply free ice cream

- 7. How many staff received free ice creams, and what was the total cost, at each Trust vaccination centre since 1st July?**

Belfast Trust did not supply free ice cream

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8. Apart from ice cream, what other bribe / incentive was offered to people to encourage them to take a Covid vaccination?

Incentives for vaccination offered to the Department of Health were from Féile an Phobail (concert tickets), the Limelight (concert tickets) and the IFA (tickets to Chelsea football match on 11 August 2021).

Each of the organisations mentioned above offered these initiatives to the Department of Health. Belfast Trust agreed to have a mobile vaccination team at the Féile an Phobail and at the Limelight and the football match tickets were drawn from attendees at the mobile vaccination events at Castlecourt and Yorkgate.

The mobile vaccination units were at these locations to vaccinate the young people who presented for vaccination. This was in line with the Department of Health vaccination programme, in bringing vaccinations close to where young people will be.

Belfast Trust did not purchase any of the tickets.

9. A copy of all documents relating to the idea behind the free ice cream / bribe / incentive stunt to encourage people to take a vaccine?

Relevant emails are attached in a separate document. These have been redacted to remove the names/email addresses of staff who are not Belfast Trust employees, as we do not have permission to share their contact information.

Staff details have been redacted, as we are not able to provide personal information under the Freedom of Information Act, as this is exempt under Section 40 Personal Information. This information is subject to Section 40(2) of the FOI Act 2000 – Personal information relating to a third party. This is deemed to be personal information about another individual and disclosure would breach one or more of the principles of the Data Protection Act.

It is the protocol of Belfast Trust to make public names of its own employees who are of a senior standing – Band 8A and above. Those who fall below that band are exempt and so their names have been redacted.

10. A copy of all procurement documents relating to ice cream and other bribes / incentives.

There are no procurement documents, as Belfast Trust did not procure any incentives

11. How many staff, broken down by numbers and grades, manned each Trust vaccination centre since 1st July?

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Since 1 July 2021, Belfast Trust Vaccination Centre has had various grades of staff from Band 2 to Band 8A working to support the vaccination programme. The minimum daily requirement for peer vaccinators is 17 staff in order to fulfil the requirements of vaccinating up to and including:

The Vaccination Centre at the RVH
Care Homes (up to 3 per day)
Mobile Clinics
and any other areas which the Trust needs to attend, i.e. in-patient areas.

These staff are primarily from the 'Nurse Bank', workforce appeal and returned from retirement to support the Vaccination Programme.

12. How much overtime has been paid to have staff at each Trust vaccination centre since 1st July?

Overtime Cost Recorded:

Vaccination Cost Centre July 2021 to Sept 2021 inclusive	£31,265
Pharmacy not included in the above figure for the same period:	£ 3,091
TOTAL	£34,356

Note: £34,356 of overtime costs have been identified as being directly attributed to the Vaccination Centre since July 2021. However, this is understood to be an incomplete representation of the total overtime incurred. Vaccination Centre overtime is worked by a range of staff who normally work in numerous other areas across the Trust, however gathering that overtime information from those employees' normal areas of work would involve very significant effort and would take more than 18 hours.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the FOI 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.

13. How many reactions were recorded, broken down by day and reaction, as well as patient age, at each Trust Covid vaccination centre since 1st December 2020?

Belfast Trust do not capture information concerning patients presenting with vaccine side effects.

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14. How many reactions were recorded, broken down by day and reaction, as well as patient age, at each Trust urgent care centre since 1st December 2020?

Belfast Trust do not capture information concerning patients presenting with vaccine side effects.

15. How many deaths were recorded, broken down by day and reaction, as well as patient age, at each Trust urgent care centre since 1st December 2020?

Belfast Trust does not hold information on deaths associated with vaccines. You may wish to contact the Public Health Agency and/or The Coroner's Office who may be able to assist.

16. How many Trust staff, broken down by grade, have not taken the 1st dose of the Covid vaccination?

17. How many Trust staff, broken down by grade, have not taken the 2nd dose of the Covid vaccination?

In answer to questions 16 and 17 above, please note the context below:

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust strongly encouraged all staff to take up the offer of the Covid-19 vaccine; however, it is important to note it is not a mandatory requirement for staff.

The Vaccine Management System, which the majority of staff across health and social care used to book their vaccine appointments, is a regional system. The details of staff and their affiliated 'home' Trust, which is held on that system, is not accessible to Belfast Trust. Belfast Trust is only able to access data on staff uptake of Covid-19 vaccinations for those staff who attended for their vaccine in the Belfast Trust Vaccination Centre at the Royal Victoria Hospital

Belfast Trust's uptake of Covid-19 vaccination amongst staff, which is outlined below, is for the period 08/12/2020 (when the vaccination programme began in Belfast Trust) to 24/06/2021 (the last day of 'staff only' vaccines before the Vaccination Centre was open fully to the public).

Belfast Trust's staff update position during these dates for permanent and temporary staff is:

1st dose vaccination: 73% (15,963)
2nd dose vaccination: 70% (15,363)

Please note these figures **do not** include Bank staff or staff who received their jab at other vaccination centres such as the SSE Arena, centres close to their homes, GP surgeries or at local pharmacies. It does not include those staff who attended for vaccination after 24/06/21.

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Therefore, the actual number of staff vaccinated is higher than the figures quoted above.

Below is a breakdown by professional group

Professional Group	1 st Dose		2 nd Dose	
	%	Total	%	Total
Doctors	94%	1,480	89%	1,408
Nursing & Midwifery	62%	4,649	60%	4,469
Allied Health Professionals	79%	2,950	76%	2,835
Social Work & Social Services Support staff	70%	1,966	66%	1,873
Patient & Client Support Services	71%	1,641	69%	1,602
Estates	80%	207	76%	197
Admin & Clerical	83%	3,033	80%	2,944
Generic Covid Response	100%	40	88%	35