

22 August 2022

Questions noted at the public Trust Board meeting on 7 July 2022

Request and Response

How much has the trust paid for agency staff at Muckamore abbey hospital since the start of 2022?

The figure for agency staff in the 2022 calendar year January to May is £4.162m. This is 'all' agency costs **paid in that time period** and may not include all invoices for agency staff that have worked during that period.

Did the trust or staff seek authorisation from patients or guardians before posting pictures of patients at Muckamore abbey hospital on social media accounts?

Any image posted on Belfast Trust;s social media platforms is published with consent and in line with the Trust's Social Media Policy

How many consultants job plans/appraisals are currently outstanding within the trust and what is the longest outstanding plan or appraisal?

Job Planning is devolved to the Clinical Divisions within the Trust and as such complete records of job plans are not centrally retained. Individual working patterns have also been subject to consideration change and flexibility during the Covid pandemic, as Consultants have responded to the changing demands upon the Trust.

Appraisal is undertaken by Consultants for each calendar year, with that calendar year's activity ordinarily being reviewed during the subsequent calendar year ie appraisals for 2021 activity are ordinarily conducted in 2022.

The appraisal figures for recent calendar years are as follows:-

- 2020 – 90%
- 2021 – 40% (Consultants continue to complete appraisals during 2022)

It should be noted the Chief Medical Officer paused the 2020 appraisal process due to the pandemic.

Where appraisal has not been completed, there is individual consideration of each Consultant's position e.g. some may be on Sick Leave or Maternity Leave, or there may be other acceptable reasons for non-completion.

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Currently how many internal investigations are currently ongoing into consultants/senior medical staff within the trust?

Six Consultants are currently the subject of formal investigation at the BHSCT within the framework of Maintaining High Professional Standards

What is the trusts policy/rules on senior members of staff posting comments on social media platforms with regards to the current political impasse or the Northern Ireland protocol?

Belfast Trust's Social Media policy applies to all staff. It should be read in conjunction with other policies, for example the Trust's ICT Security Policy, Data Protection Policy, and appropriate professional codes of practice. The Social Media Policy relates to both the professional and personal use of social networking sites by employees of the Trust and clearly outlines their personal responsibility with regards to how they use social media platforms.

I can confirm the Chairman considered and approved this response and it will be shared with Trust Board members.