

**24 April 2024**

## **Temporary staff within Allied Health Professionals (AHP) and Health Science Services (HSS)**

- 1. How many hours were worked by temporary staff within Allied Health Professionals (AHP) and Health Science Services (HSS) over the past year? (This is in relation to Agency Staff. NOT to include bank/ temporary hours etc)**

Occupational Therapy:

This information is not held centrally and an extensive trawl of records would be required. 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.

AHP (Dietetics, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Speech and Language Therapy):

This information is not held centrally and an extensive trawl of records would be required. 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.

Orthoptists:

Band 7 hours worked 250 hours for year Jan -Dec 2023

Band 6 hours worked 160 hours for year Jan – Dec 2023

Therapeutic Radiography:

Agency staff are not used in Therapeutic Radiography

Medical Physics:

Agency staff are not used in Medical Physics

Imaging Services:

Diagnostic Radiography

1 Band 5 staff worked 150 hrs from their start date to 16 February 2024 inclusive

9 Band 6 staff worked 6261 hrs from their start date to 16 February 2024 inclusive

(Note: start dates varied for each member of staff – data provided relates to staff currently employed via the Agency. A manual trawl of invoices would be required to identify other AHP staff who have worked in the Imaging Service since January 2023. Hrs calculated take into consideration January 2023 to 16 February 2024)

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**2. Can you provide a breakdown of the hours worked by temporary staff within each of the divisions/departments under AHP/HSS? (This is in relation to Agency Staff. NOT to include bank/ temporary hours etc)**

AHP (Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Speech and Language Therapy):

As above, this information is not held centrally and to provide it would take more than 18 hours work.

By way of explanation regarding questions 1 & 2, Belfast Trust's Allied Health Professions are unable to break down their agency usage into number of hours worked, departments and professions as to do so would require the service to undertake a trawl through all invoices on the FPM system and undertake a manual count. For example, in physiotherapy alone this would involve around 300 invoices per month.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information to respond to question 1 and 2 for AHPs would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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 the information.

Orthoptists:

410 hrs Jan-Dec 2023

Imaging Service:

Diagnostic Radiography

1 Band 5 staff worked 150 hrs from their start date to 16 February 2024 inclusive

9 Band 6 staff worked 6261 hrs from their start date to 16 February 2024 inclusive

(Note: start dates varied for each member of staff – data provided relates to staff currently employed via the Agency. A manual trawl of invoices would be required to identify other AHP staff who have worked in the Imaging Service since January 2023. Hrs calculated take into consideration January 2023 to 16 February 2024)

**3. Do you have a Master Vendor or Neutral Vendor to source AHP/HSS agency staff? If so, who is that contract with and when does it end?**

AHP (Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Speech and Language Therapy):

The AHP Professions use the Business Service Organisation (BSO) 'Agency Worker –non medical framework'

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Orthoptists  
No. And Not available.

Imaging Service  
Imaging uses the Business Service Organisation (BSO) 'Agency Worker –non medical framework' where possible. Contract is managed regionally by BSO.

**4. Who, within the Trust, is responsible for managing agency contracts and what is their job title?**

AHP (Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Speech and Language Therapy):  
The Professional Heads of each AHP profession are responsible for their professional agency usage in the Trust.

Orthoptists:  
Within Ophthalmology the Senior Orthoptic Manager 8B is responsible for recruiting agency Orthoptists (these are limited to 2 former Trust employees only).

Imaging Service:  
The Imaging service manager as professional head is responsible for agency usage in the Trust.

**5. Which agency is the largest supplier of AHP/HSS agency staff to the Trust?**

Occupational Therapy:  
The largest supplier to the Occupational Therapy Service in the Trust in 2023 was Your World Recruitment Ltd

Physiotherapy:  
Your World Recruitment limited

Diagnostic Radiography:  
Globe Locums