

Reference:	FOI.11083.23
Subject:	Workforce expenditure
Date of Request:	21 February 2023

Requested:

1. Can you please provide me with the greatest expenditure made to the following two groups over the last five years at Hywel Dda University Health Board:
 - a) Agency workers
 - b) Ad hoc locum workers for medical, dental and nursing staff. This includes staff worked on a temporary basis.
2. Can you please provide me with the yearly total staff bill constituted by payments to agency workers and ad hoc locums over the last five years at Hywel Dda University Health Board?
3. Can you please provide me with the number of agency staff employed yearly outside the NHS Wales Framework contract over the last five years at Hywel Dda University Health Board?

Clarification

For clarification, "greatest expenditure" is the total amount spent on the staff groups over the last five years.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of agency staff, other than nurses, who were engaged outside of the NHS Wales Framework, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The UHB does not hold a central record of staff other than nurses that were engaged outside of the NHS Wales Framework. Accordingly, it would require a manual review of all invoices to identify the information requested.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the *appropriate limit*.

However, under Section 16 of the FOIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and has therefore provided the information it holds in an accessible format below.

1. The table below provides the expenditure for agency Nursing and Midwifery (N&M) staff and locum Medical and Dental (M&D) staff, for the five year period requested.
Please note:- the information provided for the 2022-23 financial year only covers 1 April 2022 – 28 February 2023.

Financial year	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
M&D	£6.15m	£6.67m	£5.32m	£4.53m	£4.36m
N&M	£29.39m	£28.92m	£15.55m	£16.59m	£14.34m

2. The total annual bill for agency and locum staff during the requested timeframe is provided within the table below.

Financial year	Total costs
2022/23	£35.54m
2021/22	£35.59m
2020/21	£20.87m
2019/20	£21.12m
2018/19	£18.7m

3. The number of nurses engaged outside of the NHS Wales Framework is provided within the table below

Financial year	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Number	515	435	291	472

Please note:- the UHB does not hold the information requested prior to the 2019/20 financial year, and the information provided for the 2022-23 financial year only covers 1 April 2022 – 28 February 2023.