

06th October 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your recent follow-up Freedom of Information request regarding Specialist Nurse Training.

The Trust can provide the following information:

1. **How many band 5, 6 and 7 and above nurses were employed as specialist nurses (also known as advanced practice nurses and nurse practitioners) within a chronic disease area in your trust in:**
 - a. 2013/14? **29**
 - b. 2014/15? **35**
 - c. 2015/16? **48**

Please Note: caution in the use of these figures as they are not 100% reliable due to the uncertainty of "chronic disease areas" within the trust and post titles were used for selection since there is no unique data field that identifies this particular staff type.

2. **Do you have?**
 - a. nursing preceptorship programme; and/or
 - b. a post-preceptorship career development programme in place?

We have a nursing preceptor-ship programme in place and a mentoring programme for newly qualified nurses.

3. **How many of your employees were funded to take higher education courses in advanced nursing practice or specialist nursing in:**
 - a. 2013/14?
 - b. 2014/15?
 - c. 2015/16?

From the assessment we carried out, we have estimated that it will cost more than the 'appropriate limit' to consider your request.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for public sector organisations is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Incorporating hospital and community health services, teaching and research

4. According to completed study leave forms, how many hours of education and training did the nurses in question 1 attend in:
- 2013/14?
 - 2014/15?
 - 2015/16?

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5. Of the training hours completed by the nurses in question 4, how many were speciality specific training and how many were mandatory training?

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6. What is your trust doing to support the training of specialist nurses (also known as advanced practice nurses and nurse practitioners)?

The Trust's encourage applications for higher education courses, and relevant specialist training through the NMET budgets

7. How much of the total budget for nurse training was in:
- 2013/14? **Approximately £300k**
 - 2014/15? **Approximately £387k – Approximately 70% of whole budget**
 - 2015/16? **Approximately £347k - Approximately 70% of whole budget (HENCEL allocated less than previous year)**

Narrative:

Education and training can be carried out in many ways not just by attending external courses. The information provided is based on a rough analysis of the Non-Medical Education and Training (NMET) budget allocated to the Trust by our LETB, which funds most external training for employed staff.

This information does not include salary support schemes.

The bulk of NMET monies have gone to the nursing & midwifery professions.

In addition, and in line with RCN strategies, emphasis has been placed on access to nursing courses as well as supporting student nurses on placement.

Current workforce planning data indicates that as well as maintaining student training commissions, a number of professions, including nurses, require retention strategies. This is something that the Trust will be developing.

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk, in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

Mike Dunne

Information Governance Manager/Deputy Calidcott Guardian