

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/10594

Date Received: 17th March 2025

Response Due: 14th April 2025

Date: 7th April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 17th March 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Please include the following information for the following financial years: 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25:

1. Total number of days lost due to sick leave taken by NHS Nurses

2021/22 = 44,264 FTE days.

2022/23 = 44,506 FTE days.

2023/24 = 39,828 FTE days.

2024/25 *up to 28th February = 40,945 FTE days.

*The above figures are based on Full Time Equivalent so takes into account staff that are not full time.

*The above figures include all employees that fall into the 'Nursing and Midwifery' staff group, therefore is registered nurses (Band 5+).

2. The total number of NHS nurses who took sick leave

2021/22 = 1,640.

2022/23 = 1,824.

2023/24 = 1,825.

2024/25 *up to 28th February = 1,793.

*The above figures include all employees that fall into the 'Nursing and Midwifery' staff group, therefore is registered nurses (Band 5+).

3. Total number of days lost to Mental Health issues taken by NHS nurses

2021/22 = 12,444 FTE days.

2022/23 = 11,102 FTE days.
2023/24 = 11,153 FTE days.
2024/25 *up to 28th February = 11,050 FTE days.

*The above figures are based on Full Time Equivalent so takes into account staff that are not full time.
*The above figures include all employees that fall into the 'Nursing and Midwifery' staff group, therefore is registered nurses (Band 5+).

4. The total number of nurses who required sickness absence on mental health grounds

2021/22 = 298.
2022/23 = 280.
2023/24 = 297.
2024/25 *up to 28th February = 302.

*The above figures include all employees that fall into the 'Nursing and Midwifery' staff group, therefore is registered nurses (Band 5+).

5. The number of NHS nurses taking more than seven days of absence without a sick note

This information is being withheld under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act due to the manual process which would be required in order to retrieve this information.

We are unable to provide this information as the information is not held in a reportable or structured format in our central system and records would have to be reviewed manually which would exceed the appropriate time limit. The Trust has to take into account the cost attributable to the time spent in locating, retrieving, and collating the information. We have therefore applied exemption Section 12 (4) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000-beyond appropriate limit. The appropriate limit is set at £450.00 (18hrs @ £25 per hour).

6. The total number of days lost in excess of the seven days. For example, if an individual has taken off 10 days without a sick note, then this would be 3 days in excess of the seven days

This information is being withheld under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act due to the manual process which would be required in order to retrieve this information.

We are unable to provide this information as the information is not held in a reportable or structured format in our central system and records would have to be reviewed manually which would exceed the appropriate time limit. The Trust has to take into account the cost attributable to the time spent in locating, retrieving, and collating the information. We have therefore applied exemption Section 12 (4) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000-beyond appropriate limit. The appropriate limit is set at £450.00 (18hrs @ £25 per hour).

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Juliette Tait
Chief People Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111