

FOI 3247

8th August 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Please supply information on registered nursing recruitment at your trust over the last two financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25, and the months since the start of the 2025-26 financial year, answering the following questions:

Are there currently, or have there been any recruitment freezes in place affecting solely, or including, the registered nurse workforce [i.e. band 5 and up] in the last two financial years, and/or up to present day?

If yes, have any of these recruitment freezes specifically targeted at entry level band 5 nurses [i.e.: registered nurses on the starting pay point of band 5]?

If yes, please provide the timeframes and reason for the freezes.

Response:

No

How many band 5 registered nurse vacancies do you currently have at your trust?

Response:

Number of vacancies actively being recruited to at 30th June 2025: 98 vacancies

How many entry-level band 5 domestically trained/recruited nurses have you recruited at your trust during the last two years? [Please also detail separately any internationally recruited nurses you have taken on in same time period.]

Response:

See below in table:

Number of Band 5 Newly Qualified* Nursing New Starts from 2023/24 - 2025/26 at June 2025

Note: Figures exclude International Nurses and Bank Staff

**Newly Qualified has been identified as follows: Staff on Level 1 of the Band 5 Payscale or Band 4 Staff who commenced in a Band 5 Nurse position (pre-reg)*

Year	Number
2023/24	186
2024/25	146
2025/26 (Apr25 - Jun25)	27
Total	359

Number of International Nurses New Starts from 2023/24 - 2024/25

Note: Figures have been provided by Executive Directorate of Nursing & Midwifery & AHPs.

Year	Number
2023/24	45
2024/25*	28

* There has been no further cohorts of International Nursing New Starts since October 2024

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net