

FOI 3744

13 May 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

- 1. The latest data (year) of the number of individuals with a visual impairment employed in NHS Northern Ireland all sectors.**
- 2. In what sectors of NHS Northern Ireland are persons with a visual impairment employed -in broad categories- i.e. Management, Clinical, Clerical, domestic**
- 3. The latest (year) data on how many doctors and nurses with a visual impairment employed by NHS Northern Ireland.**

Response:

Please note: the input and therefore collection of this staff equality information is not mandatory and is completed voluntarily by the individual employee either via the recruitment exercise or the self-service option to update personal equality data once in employment. This data therefore should not be viewed as complete for all staff.

Due to this reason, and taking into account NI averages, we are aware that staff information in relation to disability is under-reported. According to the 2021 Census for Northern Ireland, approximately 463,000 people (24.3% of the usually resident population) reported having a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities to some extent. The overall Southern Trust figure is 3% of staff have declared having a disability, which is well under the NI average.

Trust staff monitoring data does not have a category entitled - visual impairment, we do however have a category for Sensory Impairment. There are currently 45 staff in this category.

Due to the low numbers, the limitations of the computerised (HRPTS) staff management system categories, and to ensure we protect confidentiality, it is not possible to break this data down further however the 45 staff are employees from across all Directorates and sections of the workforce including management, clinical, clerical, domestic and medical staffing including doctors and nurses.

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