

FOI – 2099

23rd January 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Q1.) How many district nurses are currently employed within each Trust?

Trust Response:

As at 4 January 2024 there were 79 District Nurses employed in SHSCT.

Please note:

- This figure excludes staff on Career Break
- 79 is the number of staff employed as District Nurses with a District Nursing Specialist Qualification and practicing in that role. While there are over 200 nurses working in District Nursing teams, these are not all required to hold a District Nurse specialist qualification.
- There are other Nurses within the Trust with the District Nursing Specialist Qualification although not practicing as District Nurses.

Q2.) How patients are registered as having a chronic wound? *This means all SHSCT patients that have a wound which is not healing in the normal set of stages ie a wound that is taking more than 3 months to heal.*

Trust Response:

There is no register for patients with a chronic wound maintained within the SHSCT. To provide information on all SHSCT patients “that have a wound, which is not healing in the normal set of stages i.e. a wound that is taking more than 3 months to heal,” would require a large scale survey with specific design and measurement methods. To carry out such a large scale survey would require more than 18 hours to collate and therefore this request exceeds the fees limit. Therefore, the SHSCT is unable to provide the number of patients with a chronic wound as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It would exceed the £450 fee limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

The following information in terms of wound management may assist your query.

- As at 01 January 2024 the District Nursing teams had 5242 allocated patients.
 - of these patients, 383 had a main clinical need of “wound management” listed.
- As at 01 January 2024 the Community Tissue Viability Service had 1568 allocated patients
 - Of these patients, 335 were also allocated to a district nurse staff member

Q3.) How many people are being treated for diabetes? *This means all patients in the SHSCT receiving treatment for type 1 or type 2 diabetes, whether they have a chronic wound or not. Chronic wound data is irrelevant for this question.*

Trust Response:

Patients may have a diagnosis of diabetes although not necessarily receiving treatment for this and may be receiving treatment for a different condition.

Many different services will have Service Users on their caseloads with a diagnosis of Diabetes, eg; Adult Community Diabetes Service, Acute led Consultant Clinics, Paediatric Clinics, Emergency Department, registered to GPs within SHSCT area although not actively known to any SHSCT service.

There is no register for patients with a diagnosis of diabetes maintained within SHSCT. To begin to collate the information would require more than 18 hours and therefore this request exceeds the fees limit. Therefore, the SHSCT is unable to provide the number of patients with a diagnosis of diabetes as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It would exceed the £450 fee limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

For context, within the Adult Community Services Directorate only, there are a total of 12,243 patients identified with Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes within community services. (There is a risk that there may be some duplicate counting within this figure, which cannot be excluded without an extensive manual data analysis).

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net