

FOI 2590

13th September 2024**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

A] Please confirm how the annually required number of midwives is ascertained. If this via a workforce planning exercise please confirm whether this assessment is made annually or if not the frequency at which the workforce planning exercise takes place.

If this figure is derived from a set formula please confirm those factors taken into account , given that the Southern Trust has the highest number of births within Northern Ireland but does employ the highest number of Midwives.

Response:

The number of midwives required is calculated based on Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) staff in post vacancies against funded established staffing.

B] Please confirm the annually required number of midwives and the number of Band 6 Midwives recruited in 2019,2020, 2021,2022 and 2023.

Response:

On 31st December of each year, the WTE funded established staffing was:

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
245.00	239.62	238.84	239.94	235.05

On 31st December each year, the Band 6 Midwife WTE recruited was:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
WTE	4.57	10.69	10.41	3.71	3.6

C] The article makes separate reference to Newly Qualified Midwives (NQM) who were presumably appointed as Band 5 Midwives in accordance with standard practice, and state that retention rates at one year post registration have ranged from 74% to the current rate 97.5 %.

Please confirm the number of NQM recruited in 2019, 2020, 2021,2022 and 2023 and the number of these individuals who remained in employment on the anniversary of the Registration.

Response:

On 31st December each year, the NQM WTE recruited was:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
WTE	2.37	3.44	8.03	14.6	20.2

At 1 year post registration, the WTE of NQMs still in employment was:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
WTE	1.77	2.53	7.46	14.6	TBC

*Figures not yet available for 2024 for NQMs who registered in October–December 2023 as the 1-year retention mark has not yet been reached, but they currently stand at 21 out of the 22 NQMs recruited in 2023.

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