

Our Ref: NG/RM/24348
Date: 29th October 2024

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Lawton House
Bellringer Road
Trentham
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 7th October 2024. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

I would like information on your Trust's Nursing Associates (NAs) and the number who 'top up' their training to become registered nurses.

'Registered nursing top up' is a shorter two-year degree or a nursing degree apprenticeship equivalent to a BSc in nursing that recognises prior certified learning and allows a registered nursing associate to become a registered nurse.

Please answer the following five questions under the Freedom of Information Act and see example answers as a guide.

1. How many registered [normally band 4] Nursing Associates does your Trust employ?
4
2. In the last 12 months (September 2023-24), how many registered [normally band 4] Nursing Associates at your Trust is your nursing lead (i.e.: chief nurse or nurse director or most senior nurse) aware of that have applied to do a 'Registered nursing top up' course? **1**
3. In the last 12 months (September 2023-24), how many registered [normally band 4] Nursing Associates at your Trust have completed a 'Registered nursing top up' course? **4**
 - a. Of those who have completed the course, how many now work as Registered Nurses at the Trust? **3**
4. How many 'Registered nursing top up' training places did your Trust fund in the last 12 months, (September 2023-24) using the apprenticeship levy? **5**
5. What criteria must a registered [normally band 4] Nursing Associates meet to qualify for funding for a 'Registered nursing top up' training place from your Trust? **The only criteria is to have completed the NMC Nursing Associate course, we would prefer Nursing Associate to consolidate a minimum of 1 years' experience at**



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Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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band 4 before they top up to the RN role, however we do not have this as a criteria.

The Trust does not have any funding secured at present to support the time out required for top up programmes or cohorts of NA to go through the top up programme and therefore the lack of provision at present is due to this. Currently we ask staff wishing to top up to speak with their line manager and seek options within the directorate to support additional training

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance