

NDDH Department Staff Threshold

Reference Number: RDF2064-23

Date of Response: 07/12/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

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I am writing to put in a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request data regarding the staffing levels at North Devon District Hospital for each department and how frequently the hospital falls below its minimum staff threshold.

More precisely, I am interested in the following information for each year 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 – to date.

- 1. The minimum staff threshold for each department and the total number of occasions each month when each department has fallen below this threshold.*

Section 12 (1): This exemption applies to each year requested.

- Some of the information may not be held as the information is not held centrally by the Trust. Each manager for each area would have to be contacted for each department individually to request this information. As the Trust does not hold this information in a reportable format, managers would need to manually review individual staff rosters to identify any months of each of the years requested to try to identify when/if their department were understaffed for each year.
- Even if some of the information is held by a particular department it would take them more than 20 hours to manipulate and extract data and staffing rotas to try to establish the minimal staff threshold and how many occasions they were understaffed on a yearly and monthly basis since 2019. Staffing levels are reviewed on an annual basis so staffing levels in 2019 might be different to what they are now in 2023.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for

information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting that information.

2. The number of occasions on which each department was understaffed monthly.

Trust answer: Please see response to question 1. This response applies to each year requested.

Please note Under section 14(2) of the Act, the trust does not have to comply with a request which is identical, or substantially similar to a previous request submitted by the same individual, unless a reasonable period has elapsed between those requests. We refer to the same request – RDF2025 of 05/11/23 for 2019 – to current 2023 - Staffing Levels at North Devon District Hospital.