

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3030

Please reply to:
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14 December 2015

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to vacancy rates.

While we have endeavoured to provide you with latest figures, please note that due to the way our systems work, our responses to questions 1 through to 4 relate to data for October 2015. These are therefore already approaching three months out of date and do not reflect an accurate picture of the Trust's current workforce or further impending improvements due to imminent appointments. This is important for the following reasons.

Please be aware that since October, the Trust has had over 100 offers of employment accepted for nursing staff with 50% of these starting in December/January.

We can also confirm that 27 new doctors are either going through pre-employment checks and/or have start dates in place to join the Trust shortly. 10 of these doctors are within our emergency services directorate.

We wish to draw these important points to your attention as although they fall outside of your FOI request, due to the nature and timescale of our vacancy reporting systems, they will clearly and shortly lead to a significant improvement in our vacancy rates, which we are reporting to you, by necessity, three months out of date from today and not including these important and soon to be seen improvements.

1) Please state the name of your trust

Please provide your most recent available figures for:

*2) The trust's vacancy rates as a percentage for directly employed
a) Registered Nurses*

- b) Registered nurses to work in A&E*
- 3) The trust's vacancy rates as a percentage for directly employed*
- a) Doctors*
 - b) A&E doctors*
 - c) A&E Consultants*
- 4) The trust's expenditure on agency nursing staff as a PERCENTAGE of overall nursing staff expenditure for October 2015.*
- 5) The "ceiling percentage" for agency nursing spend allocated to your trust by Monitor/NHSTDA for Quarters 3/4 of 2015/16.*

- 1. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
- 2. Registered nurses ALL 12.3%
- 2. Registered nurses A&E 15.7%

- 3. Doctors ALL (Cons & Other) 4.6%
- 3. Doctors A&E (Cons & Other) 21.0%
- 3. Doctors A&E (Cons only) 1.1%
- 4. Agency nurses as a % of ALL nurse expend 13.50%
- 5. TDA Agency expend ceiling % (average Q3/Q4) 8.20%