

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 2814

Please reply to:
 FOI Administrator
 Trust Management
 Service Centre
 Maidstone Hospital
 Hermitage Lane
 Maidstone
 Kent
 ME16 9QQ
 Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

17 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 agency staff costs.

Please could you tell me what the cost was in wages to the trust for agency nursing during the months of May and June 2015?

May 2015 - £851,482

June 2015 - £874,123

Please include the wage bill for the two sites, and, if at all possible, please can you break them down into departments and sites?

However, if this is not possible, please still provide me with the overall cost.

Please see the table below:

Please note it is not possible to analyse all expenditure by site.

DESCRIPTION	Agency Nurses expenditure only		All pay expenditure	
	May 2015	June 2015	May 2015	June 2015
CANCER AND HAEMATOLOGY	221,593	102,633	1,456,885	1,486,991
CLINICAL GOVERNANCE	-	-	188,916	191,071
CORPORATE MISCELLANEOUS FINANC	-	-	0	- 2,799
CRITICAL CARE	12,044	23,590	1,871,380	1,862,358
DIAGNOSTICS THERAPIES PHARMACY	-	262	2,921,172	2,861,372

EMERGENCY + MEDIC SERVICES	420,712	567,460	4,773,913	5,249,688
ESTATES DIRECTORATE	-	-	71,073	67,313
FACILITIES AND HOTEL SERVICES	-	-	1,237,677	1,183,238
FINANCE DEPARTMENT	-	-	246,889	229,196
HEALTH INFORMATICS	-	-	617,344	393,112
HUMAN RESOURCES	- 18,894	-	140,216	154,391
ICT - INFO COMMS & TECH	-	-	153,030	152,803
MEDICAL EDUCATION	-	-	68,519	73,460
NURSING AND QUALITY	-	-	107,067	106,302
OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY	- 23,842	30,199	1,535,809	1,585,944
PAEDIATRICS	112,822	32,313	746,519	755,545
PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	1,000	1,475	302,153	298,949
PRIVATE PATIENT UNIT – TWH*	6,853	3,883	334,351	252,478
SURGERY	87,371	40,593	2,482,419	2,469,875
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	31,824	71,717	744,698	702,853
TRUST MANAGEMENT	-	-	212,388	234,073
* Tunbridge Wells Hospital				
total	851,482	874,123	20,212,417	20,308,212

Please note: some values in the above table are negative as a result of the differences between estimated and finalised figures.

Similar to all other Trusts, the NHS as a whole is working hard to reduce both the number of agency staff it uses and the cost of those it does use. This is part of a direct drive publicly outlined by the Secretary of State for Health and includes the training of many more nurses nationally to reduce NHS use of agency staff.

Similar to other Trusts, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has seen its use of agency staff, and associated costs, rise in recent years. We are proactively tackling this issue with trusts throughout the NHS by stopping use of the most costly agencies, using more of our own bank staff when we require temporary staffing, and recruiting to vacant posts.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has over 300 more full-time nurses in post now than it did three years ago and we have never had more frontline staff working for us than we do today. On top of this, higher agency usage has been driven by a national shortage of some nursing posts which is being addressed, and through longer opening of our escalation wards than we have tended to see previously, as we continue to treat many more older patients, with higher levels of acuity, who spend longer in hospital, and are, as a consequence of their frailty, more likely to need community care.