

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7458

Please reply to:
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Trust Management
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26 May 2022

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 Hospital social workers.

You asked:

'Hospital social workers' include employees registered with a social work regulator, who spend more than 50% of their working time facilitating hospital discharge or providing other social work services to inpatients of acute NHS services, excluding mental health. 'Non-social work registered staff' includes staff who provide a similar service to social workers, but who are not registered with a social work regulator. Please do not include any staff whose posts are funded by the NHS or other bodies, but whose contract of employment is with the local authority.

- 1. Number of hospital social workers currently employed by your Trust (expressed as number of staff and as Full Time Equivalent, excluding vacancies)*
- 2. Number of non-social work registered staff currently employed in hospital social work teams (care managers, assessment officers, assistant social workers etc) (expressed as number of staff and as Full Time Equivalent, excluding vacancies)*
- 3. Number of vacancies for social workers and non-social work registered staff currently employed in hospital social work teams (expressed as number of posts and Full Time Equivalent)*
- 4. Are these hospital social workers managed by a registered social worker?*
- 5. Do these hospital social workers have an office base within an NHS hospital / other NHS premises?*
- 6. If your Trust does not employ hospital social workers, please give the name of the body that does employ hospital social workers in your area.*

Trust response:

1. None - they are employed by Kent County Council (KCC)

2. None - they are employed by Kent County Council (KCC)
3. Not applicable
4. Not applicable
5. There is desk space within the Integrated Discharge Team offices on both Trust sites for KCC staff. East Sussex social services staff visit the Tunbridge Wells Hospital site weekly and also have desk space
6. Kent County Council and East Sussex County Council