



17 February 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10110 – NHS temporary staff

Thank you for your request which I received on 20th January. You asked for information about temporary staff in NHS Wales.

I am writing to inform you that the information you requested on the number of temporary staff is not held by the Welsh Government. The information you requested regarding the cost of temporary staff at both the beginning of the current administration, and at present, is held for agency and locum staff paid at a premium only. The table below shows the figure for May 2011 and the figure for May 2015 (the last comparable month for which data is available). Please note these figures are not adjusted for inflation.

Period	Spend
May 2011	£4.166m
May 2015	£9.776m

You also asked what steps were being taken by NHS Wales to reduce the number of agency/locum staff used. Health Boards and NHS Trusts are encouraged to have a several faceted approach to reducing agency and locum spend which should include sound workforce planning and proactive recruitment campaigns possibly with neighbouring NHS organisations.

In addition, an overarching Temporary Nurse Staffing Capacity Steering Group has been established by NHS Wales, which will oversee and direct the work of reducing spend on nurse agency costs. This will pull together the work of the existing groups into an integrated overarching plan.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of

Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely