

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star
Date of article	Saturday 18 th April 2015
Reporter	Adam Burling
Headline	£61m on reserve hospital workers
First paragraph/s of article	<p>Print HOSPITALS and the ambulance service in the West Midlands spent £61 million on wages for reserve bank staff in a single year, new figures have revealed.</p> <p>Online Hospitals and the ambulance service in the West Midlands spent £61 million on wages for reserve bank staff in a single year, new figures reveal. The majority of the money went on nurses and clerical staff at sites through the Black Country and Staffordshire.</p>
Paragraphs relating to The Dudley Group	<p>Print They were followed by Dudley with £11.98m and the trust that runs Sandwell Hospital with £11.1m.</p> <p>Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which manages Russells Hall Hospital, paid bank workers £11.98m, £8.37m of which went on nurses and care assistants.</p> <p>Online The biggest outlay was at the Heart of England NHS Trust in Birmingham with £15m, followed by Dudley with £11.9m and the trust that runs Sandwell Hospital with £11.1m.</p> <p>Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which manages Russells Hall Hospital, paid bank workers £11.98m, some £8.37 of which went on nurses and care assistants.</p> <p>Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group, said: "We have to make sure our patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff at all times and that we meet or exceed the nationally set registered nurse to patient ratio of 1:8.</p> <p>"We use bank staff across the trust to cover unplanned</p>

	<p>sickness and short-term vacancies or when we need to open extra beds to cope with peaks in demand.</p> <p>"We always try and cover vacant shifts first from our own staff bank before employing agency staff."</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Express and Star contacted the Trust on the back of a Freedom of Information response that shows the Trust spent £11,986 million on bank staff in 2013/14.</p> <p>They asked the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Why was so much spent on bank staff? 2) Is this typical for a Trust like Dudley? 3) Are efforts being made to reduce this? 4) Is there a shortage of staff causing this?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>We have to make sure our patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff at all times and that we meet or exceed the nationally set registered nurse to patient ratio of 1:8.</p> <p>We use bank staff across the Trust to cover unplanned sickness and short-term vacancies or when we need to open extra beds to cope with peaks in demand.</p> <p>We always try and cover vacant shifts first from our own staff bank before employing agency staff.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** ENDS ***</p>	