

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-102024-0001152

Date: 15/10/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

I would like information on your trust's **nursing associates (NAs) and the number who 'top up' their training to become registered nurses.**

'Registered nursing top up' is a shorter two-year degree or a nursing degree apprenticeship equivalent to a BSc in nursing that recognises prior certified learning and allows a registered nursing associate to become a registered nurse.

Please answer the following five questions under the Freedom of Information Act and see example answers as a guide.

1. How many registered [normally band 4] nursing associates does your trust employ? [For example: 20]
2. In the last 12 months (September 2023-24), how many registered [normally band 4] nursing associates at your trust is your nursing lead (ie: chief nurse or nurse director or most senior nurse) aware of that have applied to do a 'Registered nursing top up' course? [For example: 15]
3. In the last 12 months (September 2023-24), how many registered [normally band 4] nursing associates at your trust have completed a 'Registered nursing top up' course? [For example: 10]
 - a. Of those who have completed the course, how many now work as registered nurses at the trust? [For example: 8]
4. How many 'Registered nursing top up' training places did your trust fund in the last 12 months, (September 2023-24) using the apprenticeship levy? [For example: 10]
5. What criteria must a registered [normally band 4] nursing associates meet to qualify for funding for a 'Registered nursing top up' training place from your trust? [For example: 'They need to have worked at the trust for at least one year and completed their nursing associate training under Nursing and Midwifery Council approved curriculum']

Response

Questions	Responses
1. How many registered [normally band 4] nursing associates does your trust employ	68 Registered Nursing Associates are currently employed by the Trust.
2. In the last 12 months (September 2023-24), how many registered [normally band 4] nursing associates at your trust is your nursing lead (ie: chief nurse or nurse director or most senior nurse) aware of that have applied to do a 'Registered nursing top up' course?	<p>In the last 12 months the Trust has interviewed 6 Nursing Associates for the Registered Nurse Top Up course.</p> <p>Out of these 6 candidates, < 5 were successful and have commenced on the course</p> <p>Please note that as per NHS Digital rules the Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved and cause distress to families and friends, therefore exemption Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act has been applied.</p>
3. In the last 12 months (September 2023-24), how many registered [normally band 4] nursing associates at your trust have completed a 'Registered nursing top up' course?	In the last 12 months from Sept 2023-Sept 2024 the Trust has had 15 Nursing Associates complete the Top up training and are now working as Registered Nurses.
4. Of those who have completed the course, how many now work as registered nurses at the trust?	15
5. How many 'Registered nursing top up' training places did your trust fund in the last 12 months, (September 2023-24) using the apprenticeship levy	5
6. What criteria must a registered [normally band 4] nursing associates meet to qualify for funding for a 'Registered nursing top up' training place from your trust? [The criteria were that candidates must be working in the Trust as an NMC Registered Nursing Associate. Candidates require English and Maths at GCSE A-C/4-9 or Functional Skills Level 2, alongside active NMC Nursing Associate Registration.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
 Trust Headquarters
 Russell's Hall Hospital
 Dudley
 West Midlands
 DY1 2HQ
 Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
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Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**