



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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16 October 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5630

I am responding to your request for information received 7 October 2024. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

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.

Question 1: How many registered [normally band 4] nursing associates does your trust employ? [For example: 20]

Answer: Nine.

Question 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]

Answer: Eighteen.

Question 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]

Answer: Six.

Question 3a: Of those who have completed the course, how many now work as registered nurses at the trust? [For example: 8]

Answer: Six.

Question 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]

Answer: Five. (Started May 2024).

Question 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']

Answer: The following criteria must be met by nursing associates to qualify for funding:

- Applicants must have worked in substantive position as a Registered Nurse.
- They must have been an associate in East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) for a minimum of one year.
- They must possess a proven ability to study at degree level.
- They must be employed full-time (minimum of 30 hours or more per week) in an ELFT clinical setting where they can be supported to train with



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Registered Nurses as their assessors and supervisors in practice.

- Applicants must possess evidence of functional skills of numeracy and literacy or at least three GCSEs at grade 4/C or above including Mathematics and English or a recognised level 2 equivalent.
- Applicants need to be available to go through a joint selection process between the University (either Universities of Greenwich or Bedford) and the Trust.



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