



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



Freedom of Information Request

6th June 2024

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the information of the registered Allied Health Professionals working in the NHS from the years 2020 to 2024.

- a. Total number of registered AHP staff employed in NHS
- b. Total number, age, gender, ethnicity, disability status of AHP staff by each profession and bands
- c. Number of AHPs with position in trust board, their gender, age and ethnicity
- d. Number of AHPs involved in research activities, their gender, age and ethnicity.
- e. Profession of chief AHPs

Answer

Please see the attached sheet detailing the information requested in points a & b. Each tab of the sheet has the breakdown of Allied Health Professionals broken down by equality and gender categories with totals for each year.

For the given data, you will see that some of the figures are shown as, five or less than five, this figure has been suppressed because the statistical value is less than five. The Scottish Ambulance service has a duty, under the Data Protection Act to avoid directly or indirectly revealing any personal details. It is therefore widely accepted that provision of statistics on small numbers, five or less are statistically suppressed upon disclosure.

For points c, d & e, we have applied section 17 to your request. This exemption applies if the organisation does not hold the information and would be required to create new information to answer a request. To be specific, the Scottish Ambulance Service does have Allied Health Professionals working for them, however, we do not always hold this information in a recordable way.

It may be useful to note that as part of this application of this exemption, I have considered the following guidance issued by the Scottish Information Commissioner:

Public authorities are not required to create information in order to answer a request. There's a distinction between creating new information, and compiling information. Where a request can be answered by compiling information from readily available resources held by the public authority, this is not the same as creating new information. However, if collation of the information would require skill and complex judgement, the information is not held.

In order to identify AHP's with position in trust board, involved with research activities and the profession of all AHP's, broken down by equality and diversity, would require the complex skill and judgement of multiple teams throughout the service.

Working Together for Better Patient Care