



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

University National NHS Board



# Freedom of Information Request

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

## Question

I am looking for information regarding the number of SAS staff who have been registered as on sick leave due to mental health or stress. As such, can I request the following:

1. The number of SAS staff on sick leave due to mental health or stress in the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 (most recent)
2. The data requested in Q1 broken down by role/position and location?

Please could I request that this data is provided in Excel format, as is allowed by FOI rules.

## Answer

The wellbeing of our hardworking staff is a key priority for the Service, and we have put additional measures in place and increased support over the last year in line with our Health and Wellbeing Strategy. We have also been working in partnership with key hospital sites to reduce delays in patient handover.

We are thankful to all our staff, who have been doing an incredible job in very difficult circumstances. In addition, over the last 3 years, we've recruited a record 1,388 staff, introduced 52 additional ambulances, aligned shift patterns to meet patient demand and expanded into 10 new locations as part of our Demand and Capacity Programme.

Please see attached an Excel spreadsheet showing the figures requested.

### **Please note:**

A. an employee may be counted in more than one year. For example: if employee is absent from January 2019 to 31 May 2020, they will be counted in the figures for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

B. An employee is counted in a year if they had an absence due to anxiety, stress or depression of any length of time in that year.

C. If an employee moved job role or area within a financial year and were absent in both roles or areas they will be counted across each of these.

D. We have split the information into job roles and areas. Due to small numbers, we are unable to break this down further and show the number of employees by both factors combined.

E. The financial year 2024/25 contains information for April to October 2024 only.