



# Freedom of Information Request

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

## Question

1/ The number of sick days taken off by the number of paramedics in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Dundee and Inverness please and the reason (example: stress, back problems) in the last four years (2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 to date)

## 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 find the table below showing the number of paramedics recorded as absent between 1 January 2019 and 30 November 2024, broken down into calendar year for the areas of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Dundee and Inverness.

Information is shown as sickness duration hours and sickness absence rate. We do not hold sickness information as a number of days, this is due to the varying lengths of shifts crews can work. Instead, we hold this information as the number of absence hours.

Calendar Year	Sickness Duration Hours	Sickness Absence Rate
2021	21,395	6.5%
2022	23,489	7.2%
2023	34,271	9.1%
2024	30,766	8.5%

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Anxiety/Stress/Depression	5,366	6,654	9,902	10,037
Musculoskeletal/Fracture	9,203	7,319	9,408	8,419
Operation/Recovery	462	531	3,194	2,108
Gastro Problems	2,208	1,892	2,083	1,750
Cold/Influenza	688	1,639	1,995	2,986
Other Causes	3,470	5,458	7,691	5,466