NHS
Bolton
NHS Foundation Trust

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

REF: 2026-118
Subject: Nurses on Long-Term Sickness Leave

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email dated **11/02/2026** where you requested information about **Nurses on Long-Term Sickness Leave.**

The information you requested is enclosed.

Please provide the following information, using the most recent data available, **as well as the same information for the equivalent, or nearest, date in 2021 and 2016.**	
Question	**Answer**
Please note: We have chosen the date **31-JAN** for 2016, 2021 and 2026. The reason being that the Feb absences haven't been uploaded into the system yet so the Feb 2026 results are not yet up to date.	
1. The total number of all registered nurses employed by the trust or health board at Agenda for Change Band 5 and above. **[E.g. 02/02/2026 - 1,506; 02/02/2021 - 1,321; 02/02/2016 - 1,234]**	2016 Number on LTS = 66 Registered Nurse headcount = 1757 2021 Number on LTS = 67 Registered Nurse headcount = 2097 2026 Number on LTS = 88 Registered Nurse headcount = 2371
2. Of these registered nurses (Band 5 and above), how many are/were absent from work on long-term sick leave, which is defined as sickness absence lasting more than 28 consecutive calendar days. **[E.g. 02/02/2026 - 30; 02/02/2021 - 12; 02/02/2016 - 25]**	
If possible, please confirm the date at which each dataset was accurate.	

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Department. It would be helpful to quote the above reference number in any future communication.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to The Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, The Royal Bolton Hospital, Minerva Road, Farnworth, Bolton. BL4 0JR.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright Design and Patents Act 1998. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other reuse, for example commercial publication requires the permission of the Trust. You must ensure you gain the Trust permission before reproducing any third party information.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Department

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust
01204 390861
FOI@boltonft.nhs.uk
Informatics Building | Opposite N Block | Royal Bolton Hospital

Improving care,
transforming lives...for a better Bolton