

Ref. No: FOI1019
Date: 14/06/2024
Subject: NHS staff absence rate

REQUEST

I am writing this request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act

1. How many NHS staff are on leave for mental health issues and/or sickness between the 12/06/23 and 12/06/24?

1a) Of those absentees, can you provide the 20 most prevalent reasons for sickness absences?

1b) On any given day, on average how many staff are absent from work for sickness absences?

1c) Can you provide a breakdown of what staff group had the most absences for sickness between 12/06/23 and 12/06/24?

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such

parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1. How many NHS staff are on leave for mental health issues and/or sickness between the 12/06/23 and 12/06/24?

Mental health issues is not a sickness absence code.

1a) Of those absentees, can you provide the 20 most prevalent reasons for sickness absences?

Cold, Cough, Flu - Influenza
Gastrointestinal problems
Anxiety/stress/depression/other psychiatric illnesses
Chest & respiratory problems
Pregnancy related disorders
Other musculoskeletal problems
Headache / migraine
Back Problems
Genitourinary & gynaecological disorders
Ear, nose, throat (ENT)
Infectious diseases
Injury, fracture
Heart, cardiac & circulatory problems
Skin disorders
Eye problems
Dental and oral problems
Nervous system disorders
Asthma
Benign and malignant tumours, cancers
Endocrine / glandular problems

1b) On any given day, on average how many staff are absent from work for sickness absences?

Approximately 500 staff.

1c) Can you provide a breakdown of what staff group had the most absences for sickness between 12/06/23 and 12/06/24?

Nursing and Midwifery