



Freedom of Information Request

23rd December 2024

Question

Under the freedom of information act 2000, I request the following information:

How many front line paramedics have been on long-term sick leave (4 weeks +), broken down by yearly totals, between the end of the financial year 2023-24 and the end of the financial year 2013-14?

Answer

Please see the table below detailing the number of Paramedics who have had a period of long-term sickness for any reason between 01/04/2016 - 31/03/2023.

2016 - 2017	344
2017 - 2018	504
2018 - 2019	414
2019 - 2020	437
2020 - 2021	395
2021 - 2022	478
2022 - 2023	478
2023 - 2024	548

Important Information to Consider

Long-term absence is defined as 29 calendar days or more, beyond that definition the staff count above does not take into consideration length of absence. The data above does not take into consideration if the absence duration is 29 days or 365 days.

Since 2016/17 we have undertaken a full demand and capacity review of our frontline A&E staff. Through this programme we have increased our paramedic staffing levels and brought in an additional 1388 A&E staff in the last three years, a record number. We also introduced 10 new locations, nine of which are co locations with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and an additional 52 ambulances. ([Demand and Capacity](#))

We take the health of our staff very seriously, which is why we have developed a robust programme to support them. Managers work closely with staff to encourage them to report any concerns about their welfare and we provide assistance and funding for staff seeking professional counselling services and occupational health services.

The Scottish Ambulance service has and continuously reviews a varied range of support tools aimed at staff in relation to their health – related illnesses. If you would like more information on the services, we provide please do not hesitate to get in touch and this can be provided.