

FOI REF: 25/214

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- 1) **How many whole-time equivalents are employed in the spiritual, religious, and / or chaplaincy service(s) and what are their bandings? Please differentiate between staff on substantive and temporary contracts, as well as staff working in the service on bank or agency contracts.**

Substantive Chaplains	FTE
Band 5	2.0
Band 7	1.0
Total	3.0
Bank Chaplains	0.0

- 2) **What are the typical core hours of the spiritual, religious, and / or chaplaincy service(s) on offer? How are these service(s) provided over the week (i.e. weekdays only, seven days a week, etc)?**

Core hours for Chaplaincy in this Trust are 08.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday. One chaplain works on a Sunday daytime, but this will end soon to ensure core Monday to Friday hours are covered.

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- 3) What type of support (such as regular activities, events, or gatherings) is offered by the spiritual, religious, and / or chaplaincy service(s)? Please differentiate this between support offered to patients, support offered to family / friends, and support offered to staff members.**

Chapel services are offered at each main site through the week. Patient visiting is conducted through the week by chaplains and volunteers at the two main acute sites and the Rehabilitation Unit. There are twice-monthly baby cremation services, conducted usually by the Lead Chaplain for early term baby losses. Chaplains offer support to staff. The Lead Chaplain leads training sessions and talks for staff on spiritual care, burnout and compassion (particularly for Nurse Preceptorship Programme groups and Allied Health Professional groups) and on the emotional burden of death and dying (for Resident Doctors).

- 4) What on-call or out-of-hours provisions are made by the spiritual, religious, and / or chaplaincy service(s) at your Trust? Please differentiate between provisions offered by staff members employed by the Trust, and provisions offered by external contractors / arrangements.**

Out-of-hours cover is provided Monday to Thursday nights, from 18.00 – 06.00, at both main acute sites. This service is provided by the Trust chaplains.

- 5) What support is offered to the spiritual, religious, and / or chaplaincy services(s) by external organisations? For instance, what contracts are held by the Trust for this / these service(s) and who are these contracts with?**

External support for Chaplaincy comes from the Roman Catholic priests, for example, who provide on-call cover 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No other external support is provided by any other outside bodies. There are no contracts for services by external organisations and no honorary contracts.

- 6) On average, how many service users are supported by the spiritual, religious, and / or chaplaincy service(s) in a week? Please take an average of service users supported between January and December 2024.**

Based on an average of service users supported between January and December 2024, the number of patients supported each week would be approximately 100 -150 – at each main acute site. Another (average) 50 would be supported weekly at the local Rehabilitation Units.

- 7) What is the overall satisfaction for the spiritual, religious, and / or chaplaincy service(s) offered by your Trust? Please provide the overall satisfaction for the period January 2024 to December 2024.**

There is no qualitative feedback data on the services provided by Chaplaincy at this time. A process will be introduced in the next 3-6 months for this; however, much good verbal feedback is received from patients and families.

- 8) What supervision, if any, is provided to staff working in the spiritual, religious, and / or chaplaincy service(s)? Please identify whether this is provided by your Trust or by an external provider, and the average annual cost for this provision.**

Restorative Supervision, from trained supervisors in the Trust (including the Lead Chaplain), is available to all of the chaplains. There is no cost for this. The Lead Chaplain has private supervision arrangements from an external provider. The Lead Chaplain pays for this supervision personally – there is no cost to the Trust.

- 9) Please provide a contact name and contact email address if there should be any additional queries relating to this Freedom of Information request.**

Please contact the Freedom of Information Team at: [esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)