

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

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| DATE RECEIVED | 13/07/2022 | SUBJECT | Health Visiting | | |
| PASSED TO | Child Services | DATE PASSED | 18/07/2022 | RESPOND BY | 03/08/2022 |
| CATEGORY | Research | | FoI NUMBER | 2022-268 | |

Question/s to be Answered

Dear NHS Shetland Health Board FOI team,

Dr. Gabriella Conti, Professor at the Department of Economics, University College London, and our team are working to evaluate the impact of health visiting on health outcomes in Scotland. Shetland HB has already provided us with highly valuable information on your health visiting teams, and we are very grateful for your cooperation and service. We are now writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to follow-up and extend our data collection on your health visiting teams.

We have released some of our findings for England in a briefing note (<https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10132710/>), and we would like to note that Professor Conti's research has sparked much interest from policy makers and chief nurses, having being cited in the Westminster Hall Debate on maternal mental health led by Sarah Olney MP, having presented at the APPG from Conception to Age 2 meeting on "Health Visitors, Midwives and Family Hubs" chaired by Tim Loughton MP, as well as having been well received by Andrea Leadsom's Early years healthy development review team, all amongst also being featured across several media outlets like a BBC radio programme and news outlets such as the Guardian. We are however very keen on further analyzing Health Visiting teams in Scotland and hence are interested in acquiring more data to work with. Thus, we are currently asking if you could kindly "fill in the gaps".

We have attached a **pre-filled template with information previously received & highlighted in green for 2020 (Previous FOI Reference (2020-394))** from **Shetland HB**, and we are writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request if you could provide information for the missing cells in the attached template *regarding your health visiting teams for Shetland HB, on the 1st of February 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022* based on the following questions:

1. How many FTE health visitors were employed in your health visiting teams? (Both with and without caseload). *Please provide this information for the missing pay-bands left in the template as blank and highlighted in yellow.*
2. How many FTE clinical staff (who are NOT coded as health visitors) were employed in your health visiting teams? (Both with and without caseload). *Please provide this information for the missing pay-bands left in the template as blank and highlighted in yellow.*

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3. How many FTE health visitors only with caseload were employed in your health visiting teams? *Please provide this information for the missing pay-bands left in the template as blank and highlighted in yellow.*

4. How many FTE clinical staff (who are NOT coded as health visitors) only with caseload were employed in your health visiting teams? *Please provide this information for the missing pay-bands left in the template as blank and highlighted in yellow.*

5. What was the total number of children under 5 years of age that your health visiting teams were responsible for?

(Please note, we do realize we have included 2020 again despite having received information previously; however we have included it as we missed asking for certain pay-bands in our previous request).

In case a certain pay-band has zero FTE (i.e., no staff under that pay-band), we ask if you could please input zero ("0") in the template, and only leave it blank if data is unavailable/missing.

Regarding the questions above:

- For your answers, please either use the NHS Digital definition of health visitor below or alternatively provide the definition that you are using in your answer.

Definitions:

Definition used by NHS Digital re. Health visitors (notes 28 and 29 from the nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff matrix of Occupation Code Manual):

28. Please ensure to code the following as Health Visitors:

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- * qualified nurses/midwives who also hold a qualification as a Registered Health Visitor under the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing part of the NMC Register working directly with children and families;
- * qualified and registered Health Visitors who perform specific activities such as providing breastfeeding advice to parents;
- * family nurses working within the Family Nurse Partnership Programme who are qualified and registered as Health Visitors;
- * Sure Start Children's Centre qualified and registered named Health Visitors;
- * managers within a Health visiting team who hold a health visiting qualification and registration and are involved in clinical work or safeguarding.

29. Please ensure that the following employees are not coded as Health Visitors:

- * any person working in a health visiting team who does not hold a qualification and registration as a Health Visitor;
- * any person who holds a qualification and registration as a Health Visitor but is not employed in a role where this is a requirement;
- * managers within a health visiting team who hold health visiting qualification and registration but are not involved in clinical work or safeguarding.

Please see below the general definition for 'health visitor' from the Occupation Code Manual:

Health Visitor: an employee who holds a qualification as a Registered Health Visitor under the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing part of the NMC Register and who occupies a post where such a qualification is a requirement. Not below Agenda for Change Band 6.
