

Freedom of Information Request

Request:

The total number of qualified nurses who retired due to ill-health each year for the period 1990 – 2009.

The number of qualified nurses who took ill-health retirement due to back injury each year for the period 1990 - 2009."

Status: Complete**Response Date:** 5 May 2010

I can confirm that the Authority holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, I estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for non-central Government departments it is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in determining whether the Authority holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Authority is not obliged to comply with your request and I will not be processing your request further.

Here may I explain that my enquiries show that NHS Pensions does not routinely maintain reports covering the information set out in your questions. In order to answer your two questions it would be necessary for NHS Pensions to conduct a special exercise to identify the relevant individual electronic pension files and then manually interrogate each individual file in order to retrieve the information you have requested.

In case it is at all useful to you, what NHS Pensions can provide is the table below showing the number of successful ill health retirement applications considered in each of the last 5 years ending 31 March 2009, broken down by broad diagnostic category. The table also shows the total number of applications within each of the diagnostic groups. The data in the musculoskeletal subset covers all musculoskeletal conditions, including backs, but please note that the data does not include any information about the cause/onset of the condition.

Ill Health Retirement Applications by Diagnostic category										
	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/2008		2008/2009	
Diagnosis	All	Accepts	All	Accepts	All	Accepts	All	Accepts	All	Accepts
All categories	4077	2474 (61%)	3780	2140 (57%)	3961	2186 (55%)	3676	2171 (59%)	3371	1998 (59%)
Neoplasms	442 11%	380 15%	499 13%	432 20%	511 13%	437 20%	519 14%	466 22%	483 14%	442 22%
Nervous system	351 9%	296 12%	414 11%	332 16%	409 10.5%	320 14.5%	384 11%	301 14%	355 11%	300 15%
Circulatory system	297 7%	176 7%	221 6%	129 6%	214 5.5%	127 6%	189 5%	134 6%	168 5%	102 5%
Musculo-skeletal system	1548 38%	893 36%	1412 37%	711 33%	1488 37%	739 34%	1367 37%	696 32%	1251 37%	633 32%
Mental health	819 20%	386 16%	676 18%	238 11%	720 18%	231 10.5%	661 18%	249 11%	583 17%	237 12%
The Rest	620 15%	343 14%	558 15%	298 14%	541 14%	332 15%	556 15%	325 15%	531 16%	284 14%