

Request Reference: 06-17

Date of Response: 13/02/2017

Request

I refer to your email dated 12/01/2017 requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA"):

"Please can you tell me what percentage of NMH band 4 roles were allocated to each NMH provider (excluding sole providers) per month in the last year?"

You were contacted on 20/01/2017 to seek clarification of your request as follows:

"Do you require the percentage of NMH band 4 roles the percentage per provider from all band 4 roles allocated across all providers, or the percentage of band 4 roles from all NMH allocated for an individual provider?"

Also, by "sole provider" do you mean where a NMH provider has only one student, or where the provider is a sole trader? Please note that SLC would not know if a provider was a sole trader, however we could provide the number of students where the provider has been agreed for support."

You responded the same day and advised:

"Please can you provide the information for all providers?"

Please exclude providers who provided support to only small numbers of students (20 or less) if this makes it easier to provide the information."

By email dated 01/02/2017 you confirmed that the data should cover the 2016 calendar year.

I contacted you on 08/02/2017 to advise that while the scope of your request was amended to all providers, and to exclude providers providing support to only small numbers of students, upon progressing your request it was noted that the Disabled Students Allowance – Quality Assurance Group ("DSA-QAG") website identified Non-medical Help ("NMH") providers by the following categories:

- Sole trader
- HE provider
- business

While we do not have any indicators on our systems to identify sole providers/traders, the DSA-QAG categorisations allow us to identify sole traders/providers, we advised you that we would also exclude sole traders from the response, as well as providers providing support to 20 or less students.

Response

I can confirm that the Student Loans Company Limited (“SLC”) holds information about NMH band 4 roles for all providers.

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for the information you have requested, subject to the exclusions identified above and repeated in the caveats below.

Please note the following caveats:

- the attached data is for date range 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016, therefore spans 2 academic years;
- the data is entered manually and may not be 100% accurate;
- the data excludes any provider with 20 or less overall agreements, no matter their status;
- the data excludes sole traders as indicated on the DSA-QAG website, which may include limited companies, as well as any provider who is not DSA-QAG registered but who appears to be an independent/sole provider;
- Higher Education Providers who are not registered as NMH providers on the DSA-QAG website have been included;
- the sums may not total 100% because providers with 20 or less have been removed; and
- from April 2016 all new agreements for NMH support will only be made with suppliers who are registered with DSA-QAG and subscribe to their quality assurance framework. This list may contain suppliers who are not registered because any agreements which were already in place prior to the launch date above will remain for the 2016/17 academic year.