

Freedom of Information Request –

1. What percentage of care home staff from within the northern trust CHOOSE not to get tested as part of the homes weekly testing programme?

All NHSCT staff employed within our statutory residential homes participate in the weekly testing programme.

2. What percentage of staff do get tested weekly as part of the homes weekly testing programme?

It is not possible to give a percentage for this as the number varies on a week by week basis as staff members who are on annual leave/sick leave may not participate at these times. In addition, staff members not on duty are sometimes unable to get to the care home when not on shift. Efforts are made to mitigate this by offering tests at statutory homes which are closer to their home address.

Please note that 1 and 2 above relate to Trust residential homes only. The Trust does not hold data on staff employed by independent sector care homes.

3. Why are agency staff deployed to care homes, not required to undergo weekly PCR testing?

4. Why is weekly PCR testing of all care home staff (including agency staff deployed to work in care homes) not compulsory?

The Public Health Agency is responsible for testing policy. Contact details can be found at <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/foi>