



Via Email: Caroline.Russell@london.gov.uk

Martin Machray
Executive Director of Performance

Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

11th February 2022

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter following my most recent appearance before the London Assembly Health Committee and thank you too for including details of the two information requests from members.

Taking each in turn, I hope that the following answers are useful but please come back to me if I can be of further help.

1. [Data regarding the numbers of children who are being admitted to hospital and to intensive care due to COVID-19/Omicron](#)

Unfortunately, I am unable to share the data for admissions because it is not yet been verified and made publicly-available. In the committee I was referring to operational data which shows the numbers of children being admitted to intensive care who are SARS-CoV-2 positive in London are low. The numbers have gone up nationally as a result of the spread of the Omicron variant, but the data shows that the overall numbers are still small given that we will have a few hundred admissions to PICU nationally each week.

This data is not broken down by region because the numbers are too small, so we do not have a specific regional breakdown.

2. [Details of the plan to improve recruitment and retention of NHS nursing staff.](#)

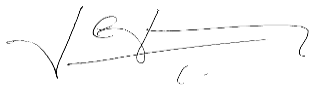
The following information details the support available for recruiting nurses and healthcare workers in London.

- Between November 2020 and November 2021, London's substantive nursing and midwifery workforce grew by 1,340 WTEs (2.2%).
- During the same period, use of agency staff grew, indicating the ongoing need to fill vacant posts.
- Recruiting to vacant posts is prioritised across all NHS organisations, with support from national and regional teams. A number of initiatives are in place:



- There is support to recruit healthcare support workers who are an important part of our nursing teams and pipeline; many go on to become registered nurses. This includes support with recruitment campaigns, sifting applications, and funding pastoral roles for those recruited. There are currently 612 HCSWs in the recruitment pipeline. This will reduce vacancy rates by 20%.
- There are currently 11,745 student nurses in London universities at various stages of their pre-registration studies. London trusts have agreed to offer every London student a post on qualifying and have a well-established preceptorship offer. This supports the transition from being a student to a registered nurse over the course of a year.
- From January 2021 to December 2021, 3,141 nurses recruited from abroad joined teams in London's NHS. Trusts were and will continue to be supported with funding of some of the recruitment costs and a dedicated regional team is in place.
- To retain our nurses in London, we continue to offer nurses excellent professional and educational development in numerous specialities at every point in their career.

Yours sincerely



Martin Machray
Executive Director of Performance
NHS England & Improvement - London Region