

**Item 8 - Question Time**

To the Chair of the Corporate Resources Committee

“Please provide a list of the number of agency staff, as well as their equivalent grades and costs to the Council, on a monthly basis from July 2016 to August 2017”.

Response to Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair

From July 2016 to August 2017 (14 months) the total spend on agency staff represented less than 1% of the Council's pay budget. In the last financial year (2016/17) the Council reduced expenditure on agency staff by 4.5%.

Agency spend is monitored by Services to ensure costs are within budget. Agency workers are used where it is necessary to meet the needs of the Service and service users e.g. short notice recruitment, technical skills, and risk factors.

The data on agency spend comes from invoices which are processed through Finance, however not all invoices will identify the specific agency worker or indeed not all invoices processed will reflect that month's work by the agency worker i.e. may be attributed to previous month or the following month. Providing the level of detail requested in the member's question in terms of monthly numbers and grades of agency workers in the format required would require considerable staff resources to analyse every invoice and obtain detail from services and suppliers. On that basis, this information has not been collated.