



9 January 2025

Our Ref: FOI 382

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Locum Doctors**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 21 November 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation questions 1 and 2, the Trust has provided the costs broken down by speciality/grade, however in relation to the breakdown cost by supplier the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reasons:

The information requested in questions 1 and 2, agency supplier names, is exempt from release under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This is a qualified exemption and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because:

Section 43 (2) - (Prejudice to Commercial Interests, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000). The disclosure of such information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of the supplier names for questions 1 and 2.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

Q1. In the period 1st August 2024 to 31st October 2024 please provide a breakdown of:

- **Total trust spend with framework agencies for locum doctors**
- **Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:**
 - **Spend per grade**
 - **Spend per specialty**

A1. Please see Table 1 for the on contract/framework agency spend for Locum Doctors.

Table 1

Speciality/Grade	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
Consultant	£436,000	£349,000	£338,000
Found H/Officer 1 (F1)	£13,000	£20,000	£22,000
Found H/Officer 2 (F2)	£439,000	£561,000	£474,000
Speciality Reg Core	£85,000	£158,000	£101,000
Speciality Doctor (NC)	£96,000	£175,000	£98,000
Speciality Registrar	£139,000	£237,000	£131,000

Q2. In the period 1st August 2024 to 31st October 2024 please provide a breakdown of:

- **Total trust spend with off-framework agencies for locums doctors**
- **Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:**
 - **Spend per grade**
 - **Spend per specialty**

A2. Please see Table 2 for the off contract/framework agency spend for Locum Doctors.

Table 2

Speciality/Grade	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
Consultant	£58,000	£44,000	£61,000
Found H/Officer 2 (F2)	Nil	£1,000	Nil
Speciality Reg Core	£26,000	£19,000	£50,000
Speciality Doctor (NC)	£9,000	£13,000	£16,000
Speciality Registrar	£70,000	£53,000	£74,000

Q3. In the period 1st August 2024 to 31st October 2024 please provide a breakdown of:

- **Total trust spend with the internal trust bank or associated external provider for locum doctors**
- **Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:**
 - **Spend per grade**
 - **Spend per specialty**
 - **Spend per internal or associated external provider**

A3. Please see Table 3 for the internal Trust bank spend for locum doctors. Please note as this is internal bank spend there is no provider.

Table 3

Speciality/Grade	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
Associate Specialist Locum (NC)	£2,660	Nil	Nil
Consultant Locum	£349,907	£228,431	£294,626
Found H/Officer 1 (F1) M221 Locum	£1,123	Nil	Nil
Found H/Officer 2 (F2) Locum	£95,594	£59,759	£89,138
GP Out of Hours Locum	£18,352	£19,177	- £97,086*
GP Sessions Locum	£269,709	£279,856	- £153,818*
Hospital (SESS) Practitioner Locum	£2,624	£2,778	£28,591
Specialist Locum	£635	£811	Nil
Specialist Registrar Locum	£54,704	£21,309	£28,579
Speciality Doctor Locum	£58,555	£22,304	£63,312
Speciality Doctor Locum (NC)	£56,574	£45,759	- £4,906*
Speciality Registrar Locum	£8,609	£9,310	£10,732

*Please note these are minus figures due to credit notes

Q4. Please confirm your allocated budget for agency locum doctors for the period 1st August 2024 to 31st October 2024

A4. There is no funding/budget allocated to Locum Doctors.

Q5. Please confirm the name of the framework used for the supply of locum doctors in your trust.

A5. The Trust used the Medical and Dental Agency Framework for the supply of Locum Doctors.