



23 December 2024

**Our Ref:** FOI 369

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in relation to Locum Psychiatrists via Agency**

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 14 November 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to questions 1, 2 & 3a has been provided by the Adult Services & Prison Healthcare Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation to question 3b ***‘Please confirm the name of the 3rd party company used for the supply of locum Psychiatrists’***, the Trust has decided not to release the information requested for the following reason:

The information is exempt from release under Section 43 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 Q3b.

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](mailto: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

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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Officer**

***Please could you confirm the following information:***

***Q1. Contact names in Medical Staffing who are responsible for booking locum psychiatrists via an agency?***

A1. The staff responsible for booking locum psychiatrists is a Band 4 Senior Administrator to Mental Health Medical staff, as directed by the Mental Health Clinical Director.

***Q2. Which framework you utilise for the supply of locum psychiatrists via an agency?***

A2. Agency Workers for Medical and Dental Framework.

***Q3a. Does the Trust utilise a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for a master vendor, neutral vendor, or direct engagement agreements?***

A3a. The Trust utilises a Neutral Vendor.