



3 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 474

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Agency Spend for Locum Nurses**

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 15 January 2025.

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

In relation to the information regarding the supplier name within questions 1b & 2b, the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reasons:

The information requested within questions 1b & 2b, **supplier name**, 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 name requested within questions 1b & 2b.

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

**Q1a. In the period 1st October 2024 to 31st December 2024 please provide a breakdown of:
Total trust spend with framework agencies for locum nurses.**

A1a. Please see Table 1 for the total Trust spend with On Framework Agencies for Locum Nurses from 01/10/2024 to 31/12/2024.

Table 1

Date	Spend
October 2024	£2,087,475
November 2024	£1,714,825
December 2024	£1,946,987

Q1b. Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:

- **Spend per band**
- **Spend per speciality**

A1b. The Trust is unable to provide a spend breakdown for speciality split by On and Off Framework as the Trust system does not report in this way.

The Trust has provided the total spend by broken down by service, speciality & banding for both On and Off Framework Agencies, combined, within Attachment 1.

Table 2 provides the spend by Directorate/band for On Framework.

Please see Attachment 1 – Trust Spend for Locum Nurses, for spend by speciality. Please note, minus figures are due to credit notes.

Please see Table 2 for the On Framework spend for Nursing & Midwifery.

Table 2

Directorate	Band/Description	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
Adult Services & Prison Healthcare	Band 5 Nurse	£485,407	£350,027	£373,969
	Band 6 Nurse	-£4,340	£13,735	£11,226
	Band 2 Nurse Support	£126,230	£95,530	£124,329
	Band 3 Nurse Support	-£4,470	£30,112	£11,750
Children's Services & Social Work	Band 5 Nurse	£11,274	£3,446	£1,392
	Band 6 Nurse	-£4,918	£8,644	-£7,543
	Band 2 Nurse Support	Nil	Nil	£92

	Band 3 Nurse Support	£4,245	£3,252	£355
	Band 4 Nurse	£556	£325	Nil
Covid-19	Band 3 Nurse Support	£706	-£1,377	Nil
No More Silos	Band 5 Nurse	£2,534	£2,873	£3,636
	Band 3 Nurse Support	£2,538	£2,538	£2,538
Primary Care & Older People Services	Band 5 Nurse	£13,960	£11,353	£19,038
	Band 2 Nurse Support	£17,579	£9,761	£27,395
	Band 3 Nurse Support	£2,971	£1,231	-£70
Surgery, Elective, Maternity & Paediatric Services	Band 5 Nurse	£200,264	£160,282	£165,509
	Band 2 Nurse Support	£51,598	£47,381	£51,650
	Band 3 Nurse Support	£19,276	£19,568	£11,815
Transformation	Band 5 Nurse	£217	-£217	Nil
Unscheduled Care, Medicine & Cancer Services	Band 5 Nurse	£844,338	£628,330	£793,310
	Band 6 Nurse	Nil	Nil	£653
	Band 2 Nurse Support	£209,645	£223,420	£274,864
	Band 3 Nurse Support	£107,865	£104,610	£81,079

Please note, minus figures are due to credit notes.

**Q2a. In the period 1st October 2024 to 31st December 2024 please provide a breakdown of:
Total trust spend with off framework agencies for locum nurses.**

A2a. Please see Table 3 for the total Trust spend with Off Framework Agencies for Locum Nurses from 01/10/2024 to 31/12/2024.

Table 3

Date	Spend
October 2024	£51,658
November 2024	£65,121
December 2024	£34,090

Q2b. Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:

- **Spend per band**
- **Spend per speciality**

A2b. As detailed in A1b the Trust is unable to provide a spend breakdown for speciality split by On and Off Framework.

Please see Attachment 1 – Trust Spend for Locum Nurses, for spend by speciality.

Please see Table 4 for the off contract spend for Nursing & Midwifery.

Table 4

Directorate	Band/Description	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
Adult Services & Prison Healthcare	Band 5 Nurse	£644	£15,993	Nil
	Band 6 Nurse	-£19,579	£13,858	-£13,858
	Band 2 Nurse Support	£7,445	£4,039	£908
	Band 3 Nurse Support	£53,225	£9,968	£14,139
Children's Services & Social Work	Band 5 Nurse	Nil	£1,146	£547
	Band 6 Nurse	£21,843	£15,969	£29,039
	Band 2 Nurse Support	£1,915	Nil	Nil
Covid-19	Band 3 Nurse Support	£2,047	£4,148	£2,798
Primary Care & Older Peoples Service	Band 5 Nurse	-£22,100	Nil	Nil
	Band 2 Nurse Support	£534	Nil	Nil
Surgery & Elective, Maternity & Paediatrics	Band 2 Nurse Support	£1,032	Nil	Nil
	Band 3 Nurse Support	£279	Nil	£302
Unscheduled Care, Medicine & Cancer Services	Band 2 Nurse Support	£3,248	Nil	£217
	Band 3 Nurse Support	£1,124	Nil	Nil

Please note, minus figures are due to credit notes.

**Q3a. In the period 1st October 2024 to 31st December 2024 please provide a breakdown of:
Total trust spend with the internal trust bank or associated external provider for locum nurses.**

A3a. Please see Table 5 for the total internal Trust bank spend for Locum Nurses from 01/10/2024 to 31/12/2024.

Table 5

Date	Spend
October 2024	£2,119,034
November 2024	£1,737,536
December 2024	£1,667,530

**Q3b. Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:
Spend per band
Spend per specialty
Spend per agency name**

A3b. Please see Attachment 1 – Trust Spend for Locum Nurses. Please note that bank is internal, therefore no supplier.

Q4. Please confirm the total number of nursing shifts booked during this period for all agency nursing only, no bank staff nursing to be included (1st October 2024 to 31st December 2024)

A4. The total agency only nursing shifts booked during this period is 8836.

Q5. Please confirm the total number of nursing shifts booked above NHSE capped rates during this period for all agency nursing only, no bank staff nursing to be included (1st October 2024 to 31st December 2024)

A5. The NHSE Capped Rate is not applicable in Northern Ireland.