



26 February 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 505

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in relation to Speech & Language Therapy Workforce**

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 29 January 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Primary Care & Older Peoples Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

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**

**Children's service**

**Q1. What was your total planned qualified SLT workforce in your children's service on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis as of 1st January 2025? Please enter the FTE of funded or budgeted SLT posts in your service including vacancies, permanent and fixed term posts.**

A1. The Total qualified Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) workforce, within the Children's service, is 63.91 Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

**Q2. What were the number of qualified SLT vacancies in your children's service as of 1st January 2025 on a FTE basis? Please include unfilled new posts which have been budgeted for or funded, vacant posts filled by locum or bank staff and any posts unfilled due to maternity leave or secondment.**

A2. The total qualified SLT vacancies, within Children's service, is 6.51 FTE.

**Q3. What was your sickness absence rate (%) for qualified SLTs in your children's service in December 2024?**

A3. The sickness absence rate for SLT, within Children's service, was 5.5% in December 2024.

**Q4. Since 1st January 2024, have you lost or cut any qualified SLT posts in your children's service? If yes, please explain how many (FTE) and why.**

A4. No, the Trust has not lost or cut qualified SLT posts within Children's services.

**Adult's service**

**Q5. What was your total planned qualified SLT workforce in your adult's service on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis as of 1st January 2025? Please enter the FTE of funded or budgeted SLT posts in your service including vacancies, permanent and fixed term posts.**

A5. The total qualified SLT workforce, within Adults service, is 32.92 FTE.

**Q6. What were the number of qualified SLT vacancies in your adult's service as of 1st January 2025 on a FTE basis? Please include unfilled new posts which have been budgeted for or funded, vacant posts filled by locum or bank staff and any posts unfilled due to maternity leave or secondment.**

A6. The total qualified SLT vacancies, within Adults service, is 2.9 FTE.

**Q7. What was your sickness absence rate (%) for qualified SLTs in your adult's service in December 2024?**

A7. The sickness absence rate for SLT, within Adults service, in December 2024 was 3%.

**Q8. Since 1st January 2024, have you lost or cut any qualified SLT posts in your adult's service? If yes, please explain how many (FTE) and why.**

A8. No, the Trust has not lost or cut qualified SLT posts within Adults service.

#### **Adult Learning Disability (ALD) service**

**Q9. What was your total planned qualified SLT workforce in your ALD service on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis as of 1st January 2025? Please enter the FTE of funded or budgeted SLT posts in your service including vacancies, permanent and fixed term posts.**

A9. The total qualified SLT workforce, within Adult Learning Disability (ALD), is 5.63 FTE.

**Q10. What were the number of qualified SLT vacancies in your ALD service as of 1st January 2025 on a FTE basis? Please include unfilled new posts which have been budgeted for or funded, vacant posts filled by locum or bank staff and any posts unfilled due to maternity leave or secondment.**

A10. The total qualified SLT vacancies, within ALD, is 1.0 FTE.

**Q11. What was your sickness absence rate (%) for qualified SLTs in your ALD service in December 2024?**

A11. The sickness absence rate for SLT, within ALD, in December 2024 was 18%.

**Q12. Since 1st January 2024, have you lost or cut any qualified SLT posts in your ALD service? If yes, please explain how many (FTE) and why.**

A12. No, the Trust has not lost or cut qualified SLT posts within ALD.

#### **Other SLT services**

**Q13. Do you employ any other SLTs not included in the questions above (Yes/No)? If yes, please state how many (FTE) and describe which setting/service they work in.**

A13. Yes, the Trust employ other SLTs, please see Table 1 for the service they work in and the number of FTE staff employed.

Table 1

<b>Service</b>	<b>No. of FTE Staff</b>
RISE NI	6.76
Looked After Children	0.5
Community Stroke Team	3.5
Healthcare in Prison	2.6
Palliative Care Team	1.38
Community Acquired Brain Injury Team	0.6
Care Home Support Team	0.8
Intensive Support Service	1.0

**Q14. Do you hold any other SLT vacancies not included in the above (Yes/No)? If yes, please state how many (FTE) and describe the setting/service the post is in.**

A14. No, the Trust do not hold any other SLT vacancies not included within the above.