



25 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 495

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to International Healthcare Recruitment**

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 24 January 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the People & Organisational Development 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) 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. Could you please provide the contact details for the procurement officer responsible for international recruitment within the trust? For Doctors, Nurses and AHP.

Q2. Outside of Procurement who is the Senior Officer Responsible for International Recruitment For Nurse, Doctors, AHP? and their Contact details?

A1, 2. In response to questions 1 and 2, International Recruitment for the Trust is managed by the Business Service Organisation (BSO) Procurement and Logistics Service (PaLs). If you wish to pursue your request please refer to the BSO on foi.bso@hscni.net

Q3. Additionally, what is the budget allocated for international recruitment for the financial year 2025/26 for Nurse, Doctors, AHP? Who is the responsible officer to allocate this budget?

A3. International nurse recruitment is managed regionally by BSO & the Trust is reimbursed by the Department of Health (DoH) for costs.

The Trust does not have an allocated budget for Medical & Allied Health Professionals (AHP) recruitment.

Please refer to A1, 2 in regards to the responsible officer.

Q4. Current Vacancies at the trust per Specialty: General Nurse/ Mental Health Nurses/ AHP/ Doctors

A4. For current vacancies within the Trust, please refer to the latest vacancy return available on the DoH Staff vacancies at the following website www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/staff-vacancies

Q5. During the financial year 2023/24, which international recruitment partners did the trust use, if any? Who are they planning to use for 2025/26? Who is the responsible officer who decides this?

A5. During the financial year 2023/2024 the Trust recruited internationally educated nurses via BSO from the Health and Social Care (HSC) approved International Recruitment Framework partners including TTM Healthcare, NHS Professionals, MSI Group and Concept Care Solutions.

If there are any requirements for 2025/2026, suppliers from the appropriate Lot on the HSC approved International Recruitment Framework will be engaged, with the decision taken by the relevant decision-making group.

A procurement exercise is due to begin to establish a new International recruitment framework from 2025/2026 with the decisions taken by the regional Contract Adjudication Group.

Q6. How many international Doctors/Nurse/AHP did the trust receive in the financial year 2023/24?

A6. Using international recruitment partners, the Trust received 9 nurses between April 2023 – March 2024, no AHP's were recruited via an international recruitment campaign. The Trust did not utilise international recruitment partners for Medical & Dental recruitment during 2023/2024.

Q7. What was the international recruitment spend Bifurgted by Doctors/Nurses/AHP by the trust for the financial year 23/24?

A7. Please see Table 1 for the international recruitment spend for the financial year 2023/2024.

Table 1

Financial Year 2023/2024	
Category	Spend
Nurses	£339,458
AHP	Nil
Doctors	Nil