



24 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 537

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Staff on Long Term Sick**

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 10 February 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. The total number of staff members currently on long-term sick leave (defined as sick leave lasting 4 weeks or more) as of the most recent data available.

A1. On 31/12/24 there were 837 Staff within the Trust on long-term sick leave.

Q2. A comparison of the number of staff on long-term sick leave in each year from 2019 to 2024.

A2. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Year	Count of Long Term Sickness Episodes
2019/2020	3001
2020/2021	3119
2021/2022	3352
2022/2023	3451
2023/2024	3283

Q3. The most common reasons given for long-term sick leave.

A3. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

Top 10 Reasons for Long Term Sick Leave	
1	Stress
2	Stress-Work Related
3	Grief/Bereavement
4	Anxiety
5	Back Ache/Pain
6	Post-Surgical Debility
7	Cancer
8	Depression
9	Other Mental Health Issues
10	General Debility