



17 July 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1198

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Insourcing for Pathology Services**

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 28 May 2025. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Surgery & Elective, Maternity & Paediatric 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. Does your trust currently use (or has it used in the last 12 months) insourcing providers for any of the following services?

a) Haematology

b) Histopathology

c) Microbiology

d) Oncology

(If yes, please specify which specialties)

If no insourcing is used for these specialties, please state "None."

A1. None, the Trust does not use any insourcing providers for the above listed services.

Q2. For each insourced specialty above, provide:

a) The name(s) of the external provider(s).

b) The start and end date(s) of the contract(s).

A2. N/A.

Q3. A brief description of the services covered (e.g., "blood film reporting," "biopsy analysis," "infection screening").

A3. N/A.

Q4. Estimated annual spend (or total spend) on these insourcing arrangements for 2023/24.

A4. N/A.

Q5. Was the contract awarded via a framework (e.g., NHS SBS DPS, Crown Commercial Service)? If yes, state which one.

A5. N/A.