



2 June 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1221

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Consultants**

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 5 June 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates Directorates 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 consultant-level doctors you currently have [WTE or equivalent]?

A1. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Description	WTE Budget	WTE Actuals
Consultants	340	318

Q2. The total number of vacant consultant-level doctor posts you currently have [WTE or equivalent]?

A2. There are currently 22 vacant consultant-level posts within the Trust.

Q3. The total number of consultant-level posts substantially filled by agency locums for more than 6 months [WTE or equivalent]?

A3. There are currently 22 consultant-level posts which are being filled by agency locums who have worked for more than 6 months within the Trust.

Q4. The total spend on agencies for locum consultants (both framework and non-framework) for the 2024/25 financial year [£s]?

A4. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

Description	2024/2025 Spend	On/Off Contract
Agency Locum Consultant	£4,635,501	On
Agency Locum Consultant	£504,619	Off
Total Spend	£5,140,120	

Q5. Any existing or planned controls on recruitment of medical staff in 2025/26?

A5. The Trust has in place vacancy controls on the recruitment of all posts, but will prioritise those posts which are client and patient facing, and where safe staffing levels need to be maintained.