



14 October 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1365

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Learning Disability Expenditure 2023-2024**

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 20 August 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 Adult Services & Prison Healthcare 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

For the financial year 2023/24 would you please provide the following information.

Q1a. The total number of adults with learning disabilities known to services and broken down in the following demography:

- ***Ages 18-25***
- ***26-35***
- ***36-45***
- ***46-55***
- ***56-65***
- ***66+***

Q1b. Split between female and male.

A1a,b. Due to the implementation of the new data system in November 2023, the Trust is unable to provide the information requested. During the transition period the Trust did not have the accessibility to specific reporting and therefore the Trust is unable to provide the information broken down by age.

However, the Trust can provide the total number of service users known to the Adult Learning Disability (ALD) Services during the financial year 2023/2024.

The total number of service users known to the ALD Service was 1629.

Q1c. How many are living in the family home?

A1c. As per A1a, the Trust is unable to provide the information by the requested breakdown due to the lack of reporting during the transition period to the new data system.

However, the Trust can confirm the number of service users known to the ALD Service and living independently or within a family home during the financial year 2023/24 was 1120.

Q1d. How many are in nursing homes?

A1d. The number of service users living in a nursing home known to the ALD Service during the financial year 2023/24 was 87.

Q1e. How many are in residential care homes?

A1e. The number of service users living within a residential home, known to the ALD Service during the financial year 2023/24 was 151.

Q1f. How many are in supported living?

A1f. The number of service users known to the ALD Service living within supported living, during the financial year 2023/24 was 271.

Q1g. How many are living independently in their own homes?

A1g. As per A1a, the Trust is unable to provide the information by the requested breakdown due to the lack of reporting during the transition period to the new data system.

However, the Trust can confirm the number of service users known to the ALD Service and living independently or within a family home as being during the financial year 2023/24 was 1120.

Q2. Please provide any breakdown in the numbers of people with different assessed needs? I.e. Mild LD, Moderate LD, Severe LD and those with complex needs.

A2. The Trust does not hold this specific information. Those supported within the Service will often have a range of assessed needs that are not categorised specifically under the headings referenced above.

Q3. Can you also provide the numbers of people diagnosed with LD and autism?

A3. As per A2, the Trust does not hold this specific information.

Q4. Can you provide the number of service users who have a DoLS? (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards)

A4. The Trust is unable to provide an accurate figure in regards to service users with a disability who have a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLs) as this is not a static figure. Many service users will have been subject to and discharged from a DoL authorisation throughout the year (sometimes on multiple occasions if moving from one DoL location to another within that year).

However, as the number fluctuates, the Trust can provide a snapshot figure at the end of the 2023/2024 financial year.

The number of service users within the Adult Disability* (AD) category who were subject to a DoLs at the end of the financial year 2023/2024 was 243.

* Please note, the Trust is unable to provide a breakdown of data relating specifically to Learning Disability (LD) service users subject to a DoL, as LD is categorised within AD which includes LD and Physical/Sensory Disability. However, whilst the AD figure includes Physical/Sensory, the Trust is aware of very few Physical/Sensory Disability service users who are subject to a DoL. Therefore, the majority of service users within the AD figures provided, are within the LD sub-category.

Q5. How many service users have been assessed as having a lack of mental capacity?

A5. The Trust is unable to provide details specifically relating to the number of AD service users that were assessed as lacking capacity in relation to the DoL for 2023/2024, as the information is not recorded in this breakdown. However, the Trust can provide the number of DoL capacity assessments that were carried out in relation to AD service users in total during 2023/2024.

Please note that the number of capacity assessments will potentially include some service users more than once (for example, the same service user could have been assessed for DoL capacity twice if the person moved residence within 2023/2024).

Please see Table 1 for the number of DoL capacity assessments and extension reports that were carried out in relation to AD service users during 2023/2024.

Table 1

Type	No. of Assessments/Reports
DoL Form 1 Formal Capacity Assessments – Carried out in Hospitals	5
DoL Form 1 Formal Capacity Assessment – Carried out in the Community	78
DoL Form 14 Extension Reports (including DoL Capacity Assessment) – Carried out in the Community	268
Total	351

*As detailed in A4, the Trust is unable to provide a breakdown specifically for LD.

Q6. How many of these service users who are deemed to lack capacity are living outside the family home?

A6. The Trust can provide information in relation to service users living outside of family/private homes and supported living but are unable to break this down specifically to service users with a learning disability. Of the 243 service users, referred to in A4, 109 either lived in residential homes, nursing homes or supported living.

Q7. Can you please also provide the numbers of people/service users accessing the various PSS (Personal Social Services) noted in the PDF file 'regional Idcosts 23.24' attached? If a service is measured in hours please provide the number of hours associated with the costs?

A7. Due to the implementation of the new data system, Patient Level Costing submission covered the period 1st April 2023 – 31st November 2023, please see Table 1 for the requested information.

Please note that the information supplied by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG), referenced in your attachment 'regional costs 23.24' has been annualised e.g. costs for 7 months scaled to a 12 month equivalent.

Table 1

Discipline Description	Activity Count	Activity Currency
Children with a Disability	848	Average Caseload
Day Opportunities – Independent	114	Opportunities (Each)
Day Care Facilities - Independent	18,830	Days
Day Care Facilities – Statutory	42,180	Days
Direct Payments – Independent	58,509	Hours
Domiciliary Care – Day	15,090	Hours
Domiciliary Care – Independent	46,683	Hours
Domiciliary Care – Statutory	3,603	Hours
Learning Disabilities Nurses	4,054	Contacts *
Nursing Homes – Independent	38,761	Days
Nursing Homes – Independent – Free Nursing Care	N/A	N/A
Payments to Non HPSS Bodies	N/A	N/A
Residential Homes – Adult – Independent	51,428	Days
Residential Homes – Adult - Statutory	1,830	Days
Residential Homes – Children - Statutory	2,549	Days
Self-Directed Support	191,508	Hours
Short Breaks – Nursing Homes - Independent	103	Days
Short Breaks (Respite) – Residential Homes (Adult) - Independent	639	Days
Short Breaks (Respite) – Residential Homes (Adults) - Statutory	164	Days
Short Breaks (Respite) – Residential Homes (Children) Statutory	284	Days
Social Work	1,617	Average Caseload
Supported and other Accommodation – Independent	133	Care Package
Supported and Other Accommodation - Statutory	30	Care Package

*Contacts – any visit or intervention taken place (Community Nurse) in relation to a service user

Q8. Can you please provide the number of social workers associated with PSS cost category Social Work?

A8. Patient Level Costing submissions do not provide WTE equivalent data for the number of social workers linked to PSS costs. However, the Trust has provided in table 2 staffing figures for whole time equivalent staff within learning disability services, as at 31st March 2024.

Table 2

Social Services Staff Group	WTE
Band 3 Social Services	169.38
Band 4 Social Services	13.48
Band 5 Social Services	119.71
Band 6 Social Services	34.05
Band 7 Social Services	29.94
Band 8a Social Services	8.00
Band 8b Social Services	2.92

Q9. Can you also provide an explanation of the expenditure £9,277,086 on 'payments to non HPSS bodies'? What is this?

A9. The Trust does not report activity against this discipline therefore the Trust do not hold the requested information.

Q10. In the attached file named 'Community Costs breakdown', there are details of different clinical disciplines working within learning disability, can you please provide the number of each type of professional group associated with the costs?

A10. Patient Level Costing submissions do not provide WTE equivalent data for the number of social workers linked to Community costs. However, the Trust has provided in table 3 staffing figures for whole time equivalent staff within learning disability services, as at 31st March 2024. Please note that there will also be Learning Disability Community activity that is delivered by Trust staff who sit outside Learning Disability sub-directorate.

Table 3

Community Staffing	WTE
Band 3 Nurse Support	9.79
Band 5 Nurse	15.24
Band 6 Nurse	6.68
Band 7 Nurse	8.92
Band 8a Nurse	2.00
Band 7 Occupational Therapy	1.00
Band 8b Occupational Therapy	1.00
Band 8c Clinical Psychologist	1.00

Q11. From information provided by the Department of Health, it appears that the South Eastern Trust overran its planned LD investment by £19 million. Would you be able to provide the main reasons for this variance?

A11. The two figures used to calculate the £19m are not directly comparable for the following reasons:

The planned investment figure (£78.9M) is sourced from the Strategic Resources Framework document, which represents the opening recurrent budget for the 2023/2024 year. As such, there may be 2023/2024 in year recurrent or non-recurrent allocations that are not included, including year-end deficit funding. This figure represents planned expenditure by both SPPG and the Public Health Agency (PHA).

The costs figure (£97.9M) is sourced from the Trust's 2023/2024 cost submission, which represents actual expenditure for the year.