



21 October 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 1400

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in relation to Staffing and Expenditure within Mental Health  
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 10 September 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 Finance & Estates 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](mailto: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

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**Rebecca Manning**  
Information Governance Officer

**Please provide the following data for each of the last three complete financial years (2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25).**

- Q1. The total annual expenditure on agency and/or locum staff for each of the following roles:**
- a) Mental Health Nurses**
  - b) Consultant Psychiatrists**
  - c) Clinical Psychologists**

- A1. Please see Table 1 for the total annual expenditure on agency and/or locum staff for the above listed roles for the financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 & 2024/2025.

Table 1

<b>Role</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>
Mental Health Nursing Agency	£1,700,443	£2,389,761	£2,188,631
Consultant Psychiatrists	£640,045	£944,912	£1,040,348
Clinical Psychologists	£11,178.00	£0	£0

- Q2. The total number of Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) substantive (permanently employed) staff in post for each of the roles listed above, as recorded on the final day of each financial year.**

- A2. Please see Table 2 for the total number of While Time Equivalent (WTE) permanent staff employed for the above roles, listed in Q1, as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March for each of the financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 & 2024/2025.

Please note that in regards to the Clinical Psychologists this is inclusive of all staff registered against the Clinical Psychology service and not necessarily all Psychologists due to how posts are provisioned on the Trust system.

Table 2

<b>Role</b>	<b>31/03/2023</b>	<b>31/03/2024</b>	<b>31/03/2025</b>
Clinical Psychologist	58.83	64.12	71.02
Consultant Psychiatrist	24.53	25.15	26.60
Mental Health Nurse	214.89	224.35	235.02

**Q3. The total number of Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) vacancies for each of the roles listed above, as recorded on the final day of each financial year.**

A3. Please see Table 3 for the total number of vacant posts, processed by the Recruitment Shared Services Centre at that time, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March for each of the financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 & 2024/2025.

Table 3

Role	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2025
Clinical Psychologist	1	Nil	Nil
Consultant Psychiatrist	Nil	1	1
Mental Health Nurse	33	40	13

**Q4. For the financial year 2024/25, the highest single hourly rate paid to an individual agency/locum worker for each of the following roles:**  
**a) Mental Health Nurse**  
**b) Consultant Psychiatrist**  
**c) Clinical Psychologist**

A4. Please see Table 4 for the highest single hourly rate paid to an individual agency/locum worker for the listed roles.

Table 4

Role	Hourly Rate
Mental Health Nurse	£47.02
Consultant Psychiatrist	£140.40
Clinical Psychologist	Nil

**Q5. The total annual staffing budget for the mental health services from which the data above is drawn.**

A5. Please see Table 5 for the total annual staffing budget for mental health services.

As detailed in A2 in regards to Clinical Psychologists, this is inclusive of all staff registered against the Clinical Psychology service.

Table 5

Financial Year	2022/203	2023/2024	2024/2025
Annual Staffing Budget	£47,058,434	£45,946,601	£55,053,129