



31 October 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 1446

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Information in relation to Trust Spend with Framework Agencies for Locum Nurses**

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

A response to questions 1a - 1c, 2a - 2c, 3a - 3c and 4 - 6 has been provided by the Finance and Estates Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation to questions 1d, 2d & 3d '*spend per agency name*' I would like to advise you that the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reasons:

The information requested in questions 1d, 2d & 3d, is exempt from release under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This is a qualified exemption and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because:

Section 43 (2) - (Prejudice to Commercial Interests, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000). The disclosure of such information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 1d, 2d & 3d.

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**

**Q1a. In the period 1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025 please provide a breakdown of the Total trust spend with framework agencies for locum nurses?**

A1a. The total Trust spend from 01/07/2025 to 30/09/2025 with framework agencies for locum registered nurses band 5 and above was £3,688,000.

**Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:**

**Q1b. Spend per band.**

A1b. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Band	Total Spend
Band 5 Agency Nurse	£3,530,000
Band 6 Agency Nurse	£158,000

**Q1c. Spend per specialty.**

A1c. The Trust do not record spend by speciality breakdown and therefore are unable provide the requested information.

**Q2a. In the period 1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025 please provide a breakdown of the Total trust spend with off framework agencies for locum nurses?**

A2a. The total Trust spend from 01/07/2025 to 30/09/2025 with off framework agencies for locum registered nurses band 5 and above was £215,000.

**Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:**

**Q2b. Spend per band.**

A2b. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

Band	Total Spend
Band 5 Agency Nurse	£145,000
Band 6 Agency Nurse	£70,000

**Q2c. Spend per specialty.**

A2c. As detailed in A1c, the Trust do not record the speciality breakdown.

**Q3a. In the period 1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025 please provide a breakdown of the Total trust spend with the internal trust bank or associated external provider for locum nurses?**

A3a. The total Trust spend from 01/07/2025 to 30/09/2025 with internal Trust bank registered nurses band 5 and above was £3,535,000.

**Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:**

**Q3b. Spend per band.**

A3b. Please see Table 3.

Table 3

<b>Band</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>
Band 5 Bank Nurse	2,516,000
Band 6 Bank Nurse	783,000
Band 7 Bank Nurse	204,000
Band 8a Bank Nurse	31,000
Band 8b Bank Nurse	1000

**Q3c. Spend per speciality.**

A3c. As detailed in A1c, the Trust do not record the speciality breakdown.

**Q4. Please confirm the total number of nursing shifts booked during this period for all agency nursing only, no bank staff nursing to be included (1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025).**

A4. The total number of nursing shifts booked during this period for all agency nursing only was 15,258 shifts. This includes all grades of nursing, Band 2/Band 3/Band 5/Band 6. The information provided for questions 1,2 and 3 relate to registered nurses only Band 5 and above.

**Q5. Please confirm the total number of nursing shifts booked above NHSE capped rates during this period for all agency nursing only, no bank staff nursing to be included (1st July 2025 to 30th September 2025).**

A5. The number of nursing shifts booked above NHSE capped rates during this period for all agency nursing only was 605 shifts.

**Q6. Please confirm the framework you utilise for nursing agency staff.**

A6. Framework reference - 3063890.