



31 October 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1454

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Utilisation of Insourcing**

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 07 October 2025.

A response to questions 1,2 & 4 to 8 has been provided by the Finance & Estates Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation to question 3 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 question 3, 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 question 3.

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

Please can I request the below information on the utilisation of Insourcing for the following period 01/07/2025-30/09/2025.

Q1. Total spend during the period for insourcing?

A1. The total spend for insourcing for the timeframe 01/07/2025 to 30/09/2025 was £961,975.

Q2. Total spend during the period for Insourcing for the specialties listed in table 1.

A2. Please see Table 1 for the spend breakdown by the requested specialities. Please note that Table 1 refers to Provider costs only. Costs incurred by the Trust for accommodation, consumables etc. are not included

Table 1

Speciality	Total Spend
Neurology	Nil
Neurophysiology	Nil
Dermatology	£166,120
Gastroenterology	Nil
Endoscopy	£766,855
Cardiology	£29,000
Respiratory	Nil
Orthodontics	Nil
Dental	Nil
OMFS	Nil
ENT	Nil
Rheumatology	Nil
Gynaecology	Nil
Ophthalmology	Nil
Surgery- including all subspecialties	Nil

Q3. Please break the spend down by insourcing company.

A3. The information requested in question 3, is exempt from release under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as explained in the previous page.

Q4. Please confirm if there was a budget and how much budget for insourcing for the specialties outlined during the same period.

A4. There is no recurrent budget for insourcing. The Trust bid for funding from the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) and, depending on what the Trust receives, it will be allocated to specialities prioritising those areas that have the longest waiting lists.

Q5a. What was the service type relating to the specialties outlined, for example, outpatient, diagnostic or theatres?

A5a. Please see Table 2 for the spend by service type.

Table 2

Speciality	Service e.g Theatres/Outpatient/Diagnostic	Total Spend
Endoscopy - Ulster (UH) & Lagan Valley Hospital (LVH)	Diagnostic	£766,855
Dermatology	Outpatient/Diagnostic	£166,120
Cardiology	Diagnostic	£29,000

Q5b. Was it a fully managed service or Team provision for each specialty outlined?

A5b. The current contract arrangements do not define either fully managed or team provision arrangement.

Q6. Please can you confirm the Frameworks utilised for each specialty?

A6. No frameworks were available for any of the above, and the contracts were awarded via an expression of interest arrangement.

Q7. Please confirm any direct awards or mini competitions which are being utilised for each specialty?

A7. All specialties are via an Expression of Interest tender exercise.

Q8. Total procedures/tests/patients seen completed by insourcing companies for the specialties outlined during the same period?

A8. Please see Table 2 for the total number of procedures/tests/patients seen completed by insourcing companies for the specialties outlined during the timeframe 01/07/2025 to 30/09/2025.

Table 2

Speciality	Service	Total Procedures/ Tests/ Patients	Total New	Total Reviews	Total Dermatology Procedure
Endoscopy UH & LVH	Diagnostic – Scopes	2297			
Cardiology	Diagnostic – Scopes	200			
Dermatology	Outpatient/ Diagnostic		424	201	331