

24 September 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1380

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Supplier Spend Data**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above, which you requested on 29 August 2025.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the Finance and 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) 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

Olivia Robinson
Information Governance Officer

Q1. Suppliers payment/spend data from 2018 to the most recent months.

- A1. The Trust is unable to provide the information for the requested timeframe as it is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).*

However, the Trust can provide the requested information from 1st April 2019 to 31st July 2025.

Please see Attachment 1 for a breakdown of suppliers payment/spend data for the above timeframe.

Please also note, that any third party information has been withheld where they relate to individuals/members of the public, as consent has not been obtained to release their personal data.

Q2. Payments to suppliers over £500 or over £25,000, depending on your publication thresholds

- A2. The information requested regarding payments to suppliers over £500 or over £25,000 is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

*12.(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of the information requested for the financial year 2018 within questions 1 & 2.

However, the Trust can provide information in relation to payments to suppliers over £2000. Please see Attachment 1.