



12 September 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1354

Dear

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

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 15 August 2025.

A response to questions 1, 2a&b, 3, 4a&b, 5, 6a - c, 7 & 8 has been provided by the Finance & Estates Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation to questions 2c & 4c '**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 2c & 4c, 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 2c & 4c.

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:

Q1. In the period 1st May 2025 to 31st July 2025 please provide a breakdown of:

- **Total trust spend with framework agencies for locum doctors**

A1. The total Trust spend with Framework agencies for external locum doctors for the period 1st May 2025 to 31st July 2025 is £4,416,541.

Q2. Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:

- Spend per grade**
- Spend per specialty**

A2a&b. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Speciality	Consultant	FY1	FY2	Speciality Reg	Speciality Reg Core	Speciality Doctor
Accident & Emergency (A&E)	Nil	Nil	£652,240	£243,147	£128,590	£9,145
Cardiology	£37,635	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	£48,933
Care of the Elderly/Geriatric	£60,603	Nil	£27,235	£90,884	Nil	£25,872
Clinical Oncology/ Haematology (Clinical)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	£5,227
Dermatology	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	£19,092
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	£21,528	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
General Medicine	£548,746	£38,165	£512,375	£188,038	£417,713	£207,737
General Surgery	£73,176	£26,907	£9,258	£34,493	£42,596	Nil
Geriatric Medicine	£62,071	Nil	£26,043	Nil	Nil	£58,435
Maxi Facial	£5,955	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mental Health	£175,625	Nil	£100,135	£39,771	Nil	£57,798
Microbiology	£53,224	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Neurology	£3,247	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Nil	Nil	Nil	£97,225	Nil	£43,615
Oral Surgery	£56,668	Nil	Nil	£74,715	£34,218	Nil
Paediatric Medicine	Nil	Nil	£11,925	£1,548	Nil	Nil
Plastic Surgery	£3,183	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Trauma & Orthopaedics	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Q3. In the period 1st May 2025 to 31st July 2025 please provide a breakdown of:

- Total trust spend with off-framework agencies for locums doctors**

A3. The total Trust spend with off Framework agencies for external locum doctors for the period 1st May 2025 to 31st July 2025 is £300,846.

Q4. Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:

- Spend per grade**
- Spend per speciality**

A4a&b. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

Speciality	Consultant	Speciality	Speciality Reg Core	Speciality Doctor
A&E	Nil	£55,054	Nil	£2,429
General Medicine	£1,148	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mental Health	£68,040	Nil	Nil	£19,200
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	Nil	£97,225	Nil	Nil
Oral Surgery	£56,668	Nil	Nil	Nil
Trauma & Orthopaedics	Nil	Nil	£1,080	Nil

Q5. In the period 1st May 2025 to 31st July 2025 please provide a breakdown of:

- Total trust spend with the internal trust bank or associated external provider for locum doctors**

A5. The total Trust spend with Internal Trust Bank for locum doctors for the period 1st May 2025 to 31st July 2025 is £1,544,924.

Q6. Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:

- Spend per grade**
- Spend per specialty**
- Spend per internal or associated external provider**

A6a-c. Please see Attachment 1 – Total Trust Spend with Internal Bank for Locum Doctors.

Please note that the Trust bank is internal not external, and therefore there is no breakdown by provider name.

Q7. Please confirm your allocated budget for agency locum doctors for the period 1st May 2025 to 31st July 2025?

A7. The Trust does not allocate budget for agency locum doctors.

Q8. Please confirm the name of the framework used for the supply of locum doctors in your trust?

A8. The Trust used the Medical and Dental Agency Framework for the supply of Locum Doctors from external recruitment agencies.