

12 August 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1274

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Trust Spend for Locum AHP/HSS Staffing**

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

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

The information requested in question 2c and 4c in relation to spend per agency name 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 statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 2c and 4c, spend per agency name.

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. From 1st April 2025 to 30th June please provide a breakdown of:**
- **Total trust spend with framework agencies for locum AHP/HSS staffing.**

A1. The total Trust spend with framework agencies for locum AHP/HSS staffing from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025 is £449,978.

- Q2a. From 1st April 2025 to 30th June please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:**
- **Spend per band**

A2a. Please see Table 1 below for a further breakdown of locum AHP/HSS staffing by spend per band from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025.

Table 1

Band	Spend For Locum AHP/HSS Staffing
Band 2	£32,258
Band 3	£31,103
Band 4	£17,632
Band 5	£101,268
Band 6	£213,181
Band 7	£49,531
Band 8	£5,006

- Q2b. From 1st April 2025 to 30th June please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:**
- **Spend per specialty**

A2b. Please see Table 2 below for a further breakdown of locum AHP/HSS staffing by spend per specialty from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025

Table 2

Specialty	Spend For Locum AHP/HSS Staffing
Assistant Psychologist	£15,156
Biomedical Scientist	£82,467
Clinical Psychologist	£17,902
Dietician	£28,604
Occupational Therapist	£96,310
Occupational Therapist Support	£17,632
Pharmacist	£23,017
Physiotherapist	£76,636
Physiotherapist Support	£8,737
Radiographer	£233
Speech and Language Therapist	£51,026
Central Sterile Services Department	£32,258

Q2c. From 1st April 2025 to 30th June please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:

- **Spend per agency name**

A2c. The detail of spend per agency cannot be provided as it is commercially sensitive, however, please see Table 3 below for a list of framework agencies that were used during this period.

Table 3

Agency Name
Direct Medics Limited
First Choice Selection Services
MPA Recruitment
Randstad Care Limited
Your World Recruitment Limited

Q3. In the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June please provide a breakdown of:

- **Total trust spend with off-framework agencies for locum AHP/HSS staffing.**

A3. The total Trust spend with off-framework agencies for locum AHP/HSS staffing from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025 is £322,981.

Q4. In the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June, please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:

- **Spend per band**

A4a. Please see Table 4 below for a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by spend per band from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025.

Table 4

Band	Spend For Locum AHP/HSS Staffing
Band 5	£8,326
Band 6	247,540
Band 7	67,115

Q4b. In the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June, please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:

- **Spend per specialty**

A4b. Please see Table 5 below for a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by spend per specialty from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025.

Table 5

Specialty	Spend For Locum AHP/HSS Staffing
Assistant Psychologist	£70
Biomedical Scientist	£22,050
Medical Technical Officer	£175,663
Occupational Therapist	£1,290
Radiographer	£110,590
Speech & Language Therapist	£13,318

Q4c. From 1st April 2025 to 30th June please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:

- **Spend per agency name**

A4c. The detail of spend per agency cannot be provided as it is commercially sensitive, however, please see Table 6 below for a list of framework agencies that were used during this period.

Table 6

Agency Name
Balmoral Healthcare Recruitment
Globe Locums
Hays Accountancy and Finance
Martin Dorahy

Pure Healthcare Group Limited
Vivid Healthcare Search Ltd

Q5. In the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June please provide a breakdown of:

- **Total trust spend with the internal trust bank or associated external provider for locum AHP/HSS staffing**

A5. The total Trust spend with the internal trust bank or associated external provider for locum AHP/HSS staffing from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025 is £215,351.

Q6a. Please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:

- **Spend per grade**

A6a. Please see Table 7 for a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by spend per grade from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025.

Table 7

Band	Spend For Locum AHP/HSS Staffing
Band 2	£2,312
Band 3	£40,558
Band 4	£15,896
Band 5	£15,141
Band 6	£49,426
Band 7	£79,258
Band 8	£12,760

Q6b. Please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:

- Spend per specialty**

A6b. Please see Table 8 below for a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by spend per specialty from 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025.

Table 8

Specialty	Spend For Locum AHP/HSS Staffing
AHP Support Worker	£9,571
Biomedical Scientist	£11,344
Clinical Psychologist	£11,038
Clinical Scientist	£4,049
Dietetics Support	£12,052
Dietician	£7,981
Medical Technical Officer	£15,437
Occupational Therapist	£37,031
Occupational Therapy Support	£13,077
Pharmacist	£22,614
Pharmacy Support	£11,651
Physiotherapy Support	£34,565
Radiographer	£1,240
Speech & Language Therapist	£16,963
Speech & Language Therapy Support	£6,737

Q6c. Please provide a further breakdown for locum AHP/HSS staffing by:

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

A6c. All internal locum AHP/HSS staff are booked through the internal trust bank.

Q7. Please confirm your allocated budget for agency locum AHP/HSS staffing for the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June.

A7. There is no allocated budget for agency locum AHP/HSS staffing for the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025.