

20 August 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 1307

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Registered Nursing Recruitment**

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 24 July 2025.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the People and Organisational Development 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](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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**Olivia Robinson**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1a. Please supply information on registered nursing recruitment at your trust over the last two financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25, and the months since the start of the 2025-26 financial year, answering the following questions:**

**Are there currently, or have there been any recruitment freezes in place affecting solely, or including, the registered nurse workforce [i.e. band 5 and up] in the last two financial years, and/or up to present day?**

A1a. Currently there is no recruitment freeze in place in the Trust, nor has there been any in place in the Trust affecting solely, or including, the registered nurse workforce in the last two financial years, and/or up to present day.

**Q1b. If yes, have any of these recruitment freezes specifically targeted at entry level band 5 nurses [i.e: registered nurses on the starting pay point of band 5]?**

A1b. N/A.

**Q1c. If yes, please provide the timeframes and reason for the freezes.**

A1c. N/A.

**Q2. How many band 5 registered nurse vacancies do you currently have at your trust?**

A2. As of the 05.08.2025, there are currently 62 band 5 registered nurse vacancies within the Trust. These vacancies consist of temporary, permanent, full-time and part-time positions.

**Q3. How many entry-level band 5 domestically trained/recruited nurses have you recruited at your trust during the last two years? [Please also detail separately any internationally recruited nurses you have taken on in same time period].**

A3. Please see Table 1 below, for the number of both entry-level band 5 domestically and internationally recruited nurses in the last two years.

Table 1

Year	Entry Level – Domestically Recruited	Entry Level – Internationally Recruited
2023/24	227	9
2024/25	258	10
April 2025 – July 2025	61	Nil