

11 May 2017

Our Ref: RFI 20106

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Locums working in A&E departments between April 2014 – April 2017**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for the information relating to the above which you requested on 7 April 2017.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to me at the address below.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

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

**L McAree (Miss)
Head of Information Governance &
Directorate Support**

These questions apply to locums including locum medical staff and consultant middle grade doctors working in each of your Emergency Departments between end of April 2014- April 15, end of April 2015- April 16 and April 2017 – to date.

Q1 *how many of your shifts were entirely covered by locums including locum medical staff and consultant middle grade doctors?*

A1. None

Q2 *How many locum staff, including locum medical staff and consultant middle grade doctors, have you employed who do not hold a substantive post in NI?*

A2. We are unable to answer this question as doctors can move from substantive posts to locum posts and vice versa.

Q3 *Have you ever run a night shift where you only had a middle grade member of staff on call as opposed to a senior consultant?*

A3. No

Q 4 *What is the total spend on locums, in the above grades & in the above department (ED), in your Trust for the financial years 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17?*

A4. We are unable to provide the information in the format requested for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 as the information has not been sufficiently coded. For 2016/2017 the total spend was £3,351,135. This was the combined agency spend across the Ulster Hospital, Downe Hospital and Lagan Valley Hospital. However again we are unable to break this down by staff grade.

Q5 *What is the figure for the 5 highest payments, per shift, made to individual Doctors in the above grades & in the above department (ED) for the above years.*

A5. The Trust engage locums at Middle Grade/Specialty Doctor level and at Consultant Level via the Regional Medical Locum Contract and the rates vary from company to company. The average for a consultant in ED is £115-£130 per hour. If we cannot source locums from companies on the Framework we can and have at times gone outside the contract. The highest we have paid for an ED Consultant is £129 per hour.