

9 November 2017

Our Ref: RFI 21670

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Apprentice Levy**

I refer to your request for information regarding the above subject.

I am writing to advise you that not all the information you requested is available.

Despite the introduction of the Apprenticeship levy in April 2017 there remains no mechanism within Northern Ireland to provide an Apprenticeship Service in line with the Digital Apprenticeship Service being established in England. Responsibility for Apprenticeships and the Levy in NI is with the Department for the Economy.

The level of Departmental funding available for apprenticeships and training will be determined as part of the budget process.

The South Eastern Trust has a number of apprentices which are currently funded by Directorate budgets and not as a result of the Apprenticeship levy:
2016/17: 6 apprentices
2017/18: currently 6 apprentices and 1 at planning stage

The Trust currently has one nursing apprenticeship.

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