

18 July 2018

Our Ref: RFI 23949

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to staff numbers & agency spend**

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 20 June 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources & Corporate Affairs and Finance & Estates Directorates 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) 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, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. 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

Victoria Smith
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. How many permanent staff did the organisation employ for 2017/18? Please provide a breakdown of staff numbers by the following staffing groups:

- a. Medical & Dental**
- b. Nursing & HCA**
- c. AHP**
- d. Other**

A1. The below Table 1 shows the number of permanent staff employed by the Trust as at 31/03/2018.

Table 1

Staff Group	Permanent Staff
Medical & Dental	408
Nursing & HCA	3475
AHP	678
Other	5041
TOTAL	9602

Q2. On average, how many contingent (non-permanent) or temporary workers has the organisation employed for 2017/18? Please provide a breakdown of staff numbers by the following staffing groups:

- a. Medical & Dental**
- b. Nursing & HCA**
- c. AHP**
- d. Other**

A2. The below Table 2 shows the average number of contingent (non-permanent) or temporary workers employed by the Trust for 2017/2018.

Table 2

Staff Group	Average 2017/18
Medical & Dental	313
Nursing & HCA	33
AHP	28.5
Other	114
TOTAL	488.5

Q3. What was the organisation's total expenditure on agency (non-contract) staff for 2017/18? Please provide a breakdown of expenditure by the following staffing groups:

- a. Medical & Dental**
- b. Nursing & HCA**
- c. AHP**
- d. Other**

A3. The below Table 3 shows a breakdown of non-contract agency spend from April 2017 to March 2018.

Table 3

Staff Group	Off Contract Spend (£)
Medical & Dental	1,860,229
Nursing & HCA	1,143,627
AHP	193,531
Other	1,794,050
TOTAL	4,991,437

NB Following a regional procurement exercise new contracts were awarded on 1 January 2018 which resulted in more suppliers becoming on contract.

The figures in Table 3 are based on payments made to agency suppliers during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. They do not take into account opening and closing creditors.

Q4. Please provide detail of the organisation's utilisation of a nurse bank

- a. Does the organisation have a nurse bank established, or are there plans to establish one in the future?**
- b. Are there any plans to form a collaboration bank across other HSC trusts?**
- c. How many staff are signed up to the nurse bank etc.**

A4a. The Trust has a well-established Bank and we process all of our Nursing & Midwifery temporary staffing shifts via the Corporate Bank Office.

b. The Trust has no immediate plans to form a collaborative bank with other HSC Trusts but are keeping up to date with developments in this area for future consideration.

c. The Trust currently have 2880 active bank staff registered for nursing and midwifery bank shifts.

Q5. Please provide detail of the organisation's utilisation of a medical bank

- a. Does the organisation have a medical bank established, or are there plans to establish one in the future?**

- b. Are there any plans to form a collaboration bank across other HSC trusts?***
- c. How many staff are signed up to the medical bank etc.***

A5a. The Trusts in Northern Ireland established a medical bank in 2012, which is now known as HSC eLocums.

- b. HSC eLocums is used by all HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland.
- c. There are currently 779 Doctors live on the HSC eLocums system.