

7 July 2020

Our Ref: RFI 34091

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Consultant Resources**

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 17 March 2020. You will be aware from my previous email that due to the Covid- 19 Pandemic the Information Governance Service was suspended as staff were redeployed. Thank you for your patience and forbearance during the ensuing delay.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources and Corporate Affairs 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) 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

Joyce Batch
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. How many Consultants does the board/area have in these areas Anaesthesia, Cardiology, Cytology, Neurology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Oncology?

A1. The number of Consultants within the Trust working in the areas of Anaesthesia, Cardiology, Cytology, Neurology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Oncology is detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Anaesthetics	38
Cardiology	9
Cytology	Nil
Neurology	3
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	14
Medical Oncology	1

Q2. What metrics is used to work out how many specialists is needed in each area?

A2. The Trust does not determine how many specialists are required in each discipline. Decisions regarding the number of specialists required in each discipline are a matter for Workforce Planning within the Department of Health.

Q3. What is the retirement age for consultants?

A3. The default retirement age (formerly 65) has been phased out and it is now difficult for the Trust to insist that a doctor retires. However, consultants must work within their competence and ensure the practice is safe.

Q4. Are there any incentives given to doctors to train to be consultants when the retirement age of a consultant is nearing?

A4. The Trust does not provide any incentives to doctors to train as consultants when the retirement age of a consultant is nearing.