

16 March 2021

Our Ref: RFI 37181

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Agency Nurses Working at Listed Bands.**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 8 January 2021. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. Thank you for your patience.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources & 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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. Since 1st April 2020, what are the top three / most expensive hourly rates (including all cost elements i.e. pay, agency fee, NI, PAYE taxes, VAT and any associated managed service / master vendor fee) paid for agency Nurses working at each of the following Bands?

A1. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Grade	Highest		Second Highest		Third Highest	
	Speciality	Hourly Rate	Speciality	Hourly Rate	Speciality	Hourly Rate
Band 2/ HCA	General	£33.11	General	£26.78	General	£26.11
Band 5	PHC	£135.54	General	£63.63	General	£61.07
Band 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

NB. The rates reflect the most expensive pay period – Public/Bank Holiday.

Q2. Since 1st April 2020, what are the bottom three / least expensive hourly rates (including all cost elements i.e. pay, agency fee, NI, PAYE taxes, VAT and any associated managed service / master vendor fee) paid for agency Nurses working at each of the following bands?

A2. Please see Table 2.

The below table shows the minimum hourly rates from framework with the Trusts contracted suppliers for each band, for basic day rates.

NB. The Trust may not have secured any staff at some of these band/rates.

The below table for the three lowest rates per band on the current framework contract for Nurses and healthcare workers.

Table 2

Grade	Lowest		Second Lowest		Third Lowest	
	Speciality	Hourly Rate	Speciality	Hourly Rate	Speciality	Hourly Rate
Band 2/ HCA	-	£11.78	-	£11.79	-	£12.05
Band 5	-	£16.55	-	£17.58	-	£17.58
Band 6	-	£20.89	-	£21.92	-	£21.92

Q3. For each of the “job titles” (Band / Specialty) mentioned in your response to questions 1 and 2, please disclose the average hourly rate paid for agency nurses of the same Band and Specialty since 1st April 2020.

A3. It is not possible to view all invoices, rates/experience/hours versus the charges by area and record the data on them and their respective timesheets. The information requested is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the ‘Appropriate Limit’ as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Q4. Has the Trust set maximum hourly rates for agency nurses and, if so, what is the maximum hourly rate for each of the job titles you’ve listed in response to question 1.

A4. Please refer to Table 1, this table reflects the maximum rates with our contracted/off contracted suppliers at each band requested, they are public holiday rates for staff with 8 years plus experience.