

4 November 2021

Our Ref: RFI 41157

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Workforce Funding**

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 30 September 2021. Please accept my apologies for the slight delay in responding and thank you for your patience.

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 Officer**

Please could I make a Freedom of Information request regarding funding available to your organisation for your workforce. Please review and complete the FOI questions below.

Q1. Does your organisation have access to funding or grants aimed at supporting one or more of the following workforce areas e.g. from a national body for purchase of technology or services.

A1 The Trust has access to funding from a National Body for Learning & Development services.

Q2. If yes, please indicate the amount of funding available and the name of the organisation that awarded the funding.

A2. The Trust received £32,000 for the Financial Year 2021/22 from the Department of Health's Support Worker's Fund.

Q3. Please provide further detail on the purpose of the funding'

A3. The purpose of the funding is to support Learning & Development Opportunities for Trust Staff in bands 1-4, specifically.

Q4. Has any of the funding been spent/planned to be spent so far? If yes, please provide further detail.

A4. To date, £10,000 has been used to support staff on the K102 module in Health & Social Care with the Open University. This is a foundation qualification that will help staff progress to careers in Nursing and Social work.

The remaining element of the funding has been allocated to support, for example:

- Level 3 qualifications for clinical support workers
- Level 2 qualifications in leadership for team leaders/supervisors
- Development days for AHP support workers
- A range of training for Patient Experience staff

Q5. What date does the funding need to be used by?

A5. The funding needs to be spent by the 31st March 2022.

Q6 What does your organisation use e.g. tools, third-party suppliers to capture ROI (Return on Investment) for any initiatives associated with the workforce areas listed in question 1?

A6. The Trust provides feedback to The Department of Health based on the initiatives undertaken.