



3 August 2023

Our Ref: RFI52126

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Children and Adult services**

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 10 July 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Nursing, Primary Care & Older Peoples Services 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 Manager (Interim)

Children's Service

Q1. What is the total qualified SLT workforce on a FTE basis @30th June 2023?
This is the numbers of funded/ budgeted for SLT posts in your service on a FTE basis. This total includes vacancies. Include permanent and fixed term/ temporary posts. Include any posts funded by post covid backlog funding.

A1. The total qualified Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) workforce on a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) basis as at 30th June is 65.79.

Q2. What were the number of qualified SLT vacancies in your service as at 30th June 2023 on a FTE basis?
Please include unfilled new posts which have been budgeted for or funded. Include vacant posts filled by locum or bank staff. Include any post unfilled due to maternity leave or secondment.

A2. As at 30th June 2023 there are 7 FTE vacant posts.

Q3. Which bands of posts are you least likely to fill? 5/6/7/8a/8b

A3. The Trust have had recent difficulty recruiting to a band 8a post. It has also been difficult at times to fill band 5 posts due to insufficient workforce availability. The Trust is least likely to fill temporary posts at bands 6 to 8.

Adult Service

Q4. What is the total qualified SLT workforce on a FTE basis @30th June 2023?
This is the numbers of funded/ budgeted for SLT posts in your service on a FTE basis. This total includes vacancies. Include permanent and fixed term/ temporary posts. Include any posts funded by post covid backlog funding.

A4. The total qualified SLT workforce on a FTE basis @30th June is 46.5.

Q5. What were the number of qualified SLT vacancies in your service as at 30th June 2023 on a FTE basis?
Please include unfilled new posts which have been budgeted for or funded. Include vacant posts filled by locum or bank staff. Include any post unfilled due to maternity leave or secondment.

A5. As at 30th June 2023 there are 5.5 FTE vacant posts.

Q6. Which bands of posts are you least likely to fill? 5/6/7/8a/8b

- A6. The Trust is currently least likely to fill band 6 and 7 posts. It is least likely to fill temporary posts at bands 6 to 8. It has also been difficult at times to fill band 5 posts.