

Information Governance

12 January 2022

**Our Ref:** RFI 41209

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Doctors working in the Private Sector and Number  
of ICU beds**

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 8 October 2021. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request due to the impact of winter pressures across many of the Trust Services. Thank you for your understanding and patience in this regard.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Trust 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](mailto: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

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**Joyce Batch**  
**Information Governance Manager (Interim)**

***I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.***

***Please send me:***

***Q1 A breakdown of on average how many hours per week doctors worked in the public sector Vs how many hours per week worked in the private sector by year from January 2011 – October 2021.***

A1 In compliance with Doctors' Contracts of Employment the average working hours per week for full-time Doctors within the Trust are 40 to 48 hours and this is applicable to all the years requested i.e. January 2011 to date.

The Trust does not hold any comparison information in relation to working hours of Doctors in the Private Sector.

***Q2. Number of ICU beds from January 2011 – October 2021.***

A2. From January 2011 the Trust had 8 ICU beds commissioned. Subsequently, from March 2020 the Trust became part of the regional escalation plan, the number of beds that the Trust have open at the current time is dictated by the Critical Care Network Northern Ireland (CANNI) surge plan and has varied up to a maximum of 16.