

09 October 2023

Our Ref: RFI 53473

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Critical Shift Payments**

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 13 September 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance and Estates 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

**Robyn Watterson
Information Governance Officer**

Q1. I was wondering if we would be able to have a breakdown of how much the agency cost is compared to the critical shift payment.

A1. Please see Table 1 below.

Please note the following assumptions have been made:

- The majority of critical shift spend relates to Band 5 Nurses
- Agency rates are based on the top 3 on contract suppliers of B5 nursing.

Table 1

	Critical Shift Hourly Rate	Agency – On Contract Hourly Rate
B5 Basic	£31.66	£36.86
B5 Unsocial	£41.16	£42.28
B5 Public Holiday	£50.66	£48.30