

20 October 2023

Our Ref: RFI 53871

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Electric Vehicle Staff Scheme**

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 29 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. How long has the Trust been offering staff a scheme whereby they can lease an Electric Vehicle for their own personal use?

A1. The Trust has been offering a scheme where staff can lease an Electric Vehicle since 19 December 2014, when the first leased electric vehicle was delivered.

Q2. How many members of staff currently avail of the scheme?

A2. The Trust currently have 448 members of either staff availing of the wholly electric or hybrid electric vehicle lease scheme broken down in Table 1 below:

Table 1

	Vehicle Delivered and Still on the Road	Vehicle on Order
Wholly Electric	334	43
Hybrid Electric	56	15

Q3. Can you provide, in the form of a table, a yearly breakdown of staff uptake of the scheme, during each of the financial years the scheme has been going?

A3. Please see Table 2 below:

Table 2:

Financial Year	Uptake of Wholly Electric Leases	Uptake of Hybrid Electric Leases
2014-2015	2	1
2015-2016	3	Nil
2016-2017	1	4
2017-2018	4	19
2018-2019	1	30
2019-2020	5	17
2020-2021	123	21
2021-2022	90	15
2022-2023	99	19
2023-2024	150	27

Q4. Can you provide a breakdown in the form of a table, the number of staff by band who currently avail of the scheme?

A4. Please see Table 3 below:
Table 3

Band	Number of Leases
2	1
3	27
4	2
5	49
6	93
7	92
8A	48
8B	12
8C	16
Director	2
L009	6
M090	2
M215	13
M400	73
M404	1
M406	2
M407	2
M408	1
M409	1
M417	1
M431	2
M390	2

Please note the codes beginning with 'L' and 'M' are Medical and Dental members of staff.

Q5. Can you provide details on the number of EV charging points that are situated on Trust property, and which sites they are located?

A5. Please see Table 4 below:

Table 4

Site	Number of EV Charging Points
Newtownards Community Hospital	2 chargers
Ulster Hospital	5 chargers
Lagan Valley Hospital	1 charger
Downe Hospital	Nil
Downshire Hospital	1 charger
Other Sites: please specify	Nil

Q6a. Does the Trust permit staff to charge their own EV at these charging points, mentioned in question 5.

A6a. Regardless of whether a vehicle is leased or owned, access to a Trust EV charging point is only given to Permit holding staff.

Q6b. *And is there a charge to staff for doing this?*

A6b. No, there is no additional charge for accessing an EV charger at present.

Q6c. *Are the Trust/staff aware that this might be seen as a benefit in kind?*

A6c. Any benefit in kind declarations required are requested annually by HMRC. At present, there is no requirement to declare Electric Vehicles charging records for Trust employees.