

07 November 2023

Our Ref: RFI 53875

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Trust Medical Consultant Posts**

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. Please accept my apologies for the delay in repsonding to your request, thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the People and Organisational Development 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. What is the number of medical consultant posts (all consultants regardless of speciality including HSC and Honorary) in your health Trust, by WTE as at 30 September for each year 2021, 2022 and 2023 for the following categories (please note that all posts should be counted under one category only):**
- i. Posts occupied by a permanent consultant***
 - ii. Newly-created consultant posts which have not yet been advertised***
 - iii. Vacant consultant posts according to the Workforce Statistics definition ('any position that is currently with the recruitment team and being actively recruited to. This will include those going through pre-employment checks, up to the point of a start date being agreed')***
 - iv. Vacant consultant posts which are awaiting approval for recruitment or are on hold by managers***
 - v. Consultant posts which although currently unfilled are not under active recruitment, e.g. where a previous recruitment exercise has been unsuccessful***
 - vi. All posts occupied by a locum consultant (including consultants re-engaged as locums who previously held a permanent post and those locum consultant posts that have been recruited to but applicant not yet in post (e.g. deferred started due to pending CCT)***
 - vii. Other (please be specific)***
- Q2. What is the number of speciality doctor posts in your health Trust, by WTE as at 30 September for each 2021, 2022 and 2023 for the following categories (please note that all posts should be counted under one category only)**
- i. Posts occupied by a permanent speciality doctor***
 - ii. Newly-created speciality posts which have not yet been advertised***
 - iii. Vacant speciality posts according to the Workforce Statistics definition ('any position that is currently with the recruitment team and being actively recruited to. This will include those going through pre-employment checks, up to the point of a start date being agreed')***
 - iv. Vacant speciality posts which are awaiting approval for recruitment or are on hold by managers***
 - v. Speciality posts which although currently unfilled are not under active recruitment, e.g. where a previous recruitment exercise has been unsuccessful***

- vi. All posts occupied by a locum speciality doctor (including those re-engaged as locums who previously held a permanent post and those employed via an agency)*
- vii. Speciality posts that have been recruited to but applicant not yet in post (e.g. deferred start)*
- viii. Other (please be specific)*

A1,2. Please see attachment 1.

Q3. What definition does your health Trust use to define a vacancy?

A3. The Trust uses the same definition as outlined above – an actively recruited position currently going through a recruitment process.