

Our Ref: RFI 55935

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Communications & Public Relations Spend**

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 19 January 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

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

**Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer**

Please provide your total spend on communications and public relations for the last three financial years (20/21, 21/22, 22/23). For each year I would like a breakdown containing the following information:

Q1a. Spend on communications and public relations activities.

A1a. Please see Table 1 for the total spend on communications and public relations activities. Please note the figures are as at 31 March for each financial year.

Table 1

Year	Total Spend £
2020/2021	£50,613
2021/2022	£41,964
2022/2023	£26,578

Q1b. Total number of communications and public relations employees

A1b. Please see Table 2 for the number of Trust Communications and Public Relations Employees. Please note the figures are as at 31 March for each financial year.

Table 2

Year	No. of Employees (WTE*)
2020/2021	5.55
2021/2022	7.55
2022/2023	8.55

*WTE – Whole time equivalent

Q1c. Total salary cost for all communications and public relations employees.

A1c. Please see Table 3 for total salary costs for all Communications and Public Relations employees. Please note the figures are as at 31 March for each financial year.

Table 3

Year	Total Cost £
2020/2021	£271,169
2021/2022	£312,729
2022/2023	£388,940