

26 April 2024

Our Ref: RFI 57442

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Private Ambulance Provision**

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

A response to the question raised has been provided by the Finance & 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

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Officer

Q1. The amount spent by the Trust on private ambulance provision between January 1 2020 until March 21 2024, broken down by year

A1. Please see Table 1 below, for the Trust spend on private ambulance provision for the period 1 January 2022 until 31 March 2024.

Table 1

Calendar Year	Private Ambulance Cost
2020	£1,881,869.73
2021	£2,051,128.86
2022	£1,456,983.26
2023	£1,727,830.39
2024	£217,044.75