

11 September 2024

Our Ref: RFI 59484**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Trust Spend with Framework Agencies for Locum
Doctors**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 16 August 2024.

A response to questions 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3 & 4 has been provided by the Finance & Estates Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation to questions 1c and 2c '**spend breakdown by agency**' I would like to advise you that the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reason:

The information requested in questions 1c and 2c is exempt from release under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This is a qualified exemption and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

Section 43 – Commercial Interests

Section 43(2) states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). Disclosure of the requested information would leave the (name of organisation's) digital infrastructure at significant risk of cyber security attack. This would compromise the Trust ability to provide Health & Care Services and carry-on business-as usual should the digital systems be compromised.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 1c and 2c.

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

Q1. In the period 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024 please provide a breakdown of the total trust spend with framework agencies for locum doctors.

Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:

- a. Spend per grade**
- b. Spend per specialty**

Q2. In the period 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024 please provide a breakdown of the total trust spend with off-framework agencies for locum doctors.

Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:

- a. Spend per grade**
- b. Spend per specialty**

A1,2a. In response to questions 1a and 2a please see below Table 1 for the total Trust spend with on and off framework agencies for locum Doctors from 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024, broken down by grade.

Table 1

Grade	On Framework	Off Framework
Consultant	£822,111	£136,179
Middle Grade	£262,692	£54,591
Junior Grade	£1,584,268	£346,073
Total	£2,669,071	£536,843

A1,2b. In response to questions 1b and 2b please see below Table 2 for the total Trust spend with on and off framework agencies for locum Doctors from 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024, broken down by speciality.

Table 2

Speciality	On Framework	Off Framework
General Medicine	£1,864,661	£43,616
Unscheduled Care	£173,534	£169,560
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	£124,715	£93,783
Community Health	£122,900	Nil
Microbiology	£77,282	Nil
Mental Health	£77,232	£113,200
Paediatrics	£49,340	£7,332
Primary Care	£42,255	Nil
Maxillofacial Surgery	£36,827	£40,780
Ear, Nose & Throat	£32,632	£13,384
Radiology	£10,323	Nil
Child Health	£7,702	Nil
Urology	£7,267	Nil
Orthopaedic Surgery	Nil	£50,400
General Surgery	Nil	£4,788
Other	£42,400	Nil
Total	£2,669,071	£536,843

- Q3. In the period 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024 please provide a breakdown of the total trust spend with the internal trust bank or associated external provider for locum doctors.
Please provide a further breakdown for locum doctors by:**
- a. Spend per grade**
 - b. Spend per specialty**
 - c. Spend per internal or associated external provider**
- A3. The Trust can confirm there was no spend against bank for locum doctors for the period 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024.
- Q4. Please confirm your allocated budget for agency locum doctors for the period 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024.**
- A4. There is no budget allocated for agency locum doctors for the period 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024.