



19 September 2024

Our Ref: RFI 59492

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Temporary Staffing Procurement Department**

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 26 August 2024.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates and People & Organisational Development Services 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

Information request to the Temporary Staffing Procurement Department. Please provide the following information:

Q1. Does the Trust use the RM6281 Workforce Alliance framework?

A1. No, the Trust does not use RM6281 Workforce Alliance Framework.

Q2. Which department is responsible for staffing under Lot 1 (Nursing and Midwifery) and Lot 4 (Social Care)?

A2. As detailed in A1, the Trust does not use RM6281.

Q3. Is the Trust a participant in the new RM6281 Workforce Alliance framework? If not, which framework is being used, when will it commence, and where is it published?

A3. The Trust is not a participant in the new RM6281 Workforce Alliance Framework.
The Trust use the Frameworks Business Services Organisation (BSO) Procurement & Logistics (PaLS) puts in place on their behalf. Currently 3063890 for Nursing and 556151 for non-nursing.
The PaLS Framework for nursing (3063890) went live on 15 May 2023 The Non-Nursing framework (556151) went live 1st January 2018
The tender for both Frameworks was published on the eTendersNI website which publishes all public procurement opportunities in Northern Ireland.

Q4. The total Trust expenditure on framework agencies for Registered General Nurses, Registered Mental Health Nurses, and Health Care Assistants from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024.

A4. The total Trust expenditure for on framework agencies for the above staff categories from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 is £10,411,452

Q5. The total Trust expenditure on off-framework agencies for the same roles and period.

A5. The total Trust expenditure for off framework agencies for the same staff categories and timeframe is £155,858.

Q6. The total Trust expenditure through the internal Trust bank for the same period.

A6. The total Trust expenditure for Trust bank for the same staff categories and timeframe is £11,224,818.

Q7. The total number of Nursing and Health Care Assistant shifts booked during this period.

A7. From the 1st January 2024 to 30th June 2024 a total of 78,945 Nursing and Health Care Assistants shifts were booked.

Q8. The total number of shifts booked above NHSE capped rates during this period.

A8. The NHSE Cap rates are not applicable in Northern Ireland.

Q9. The number of agencies currently assigned to tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 under Lot 1.

A9. The Trust do not use RM6281 to which the above tiers under Lot 1 exist.