

FOI 3316

29th September 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

- 1. Can you provide the numbers of new entrants for each of the last three financial years for formal apprenticeships at the Southern Health & Social Care Trust, with the totals provided separately by job title/craft/trade associated with the apprenticeship. [Please note I am not requesting numbers for other forms of training only formal apprenticeships. Please note further I do not want the total number of apprenticeships for each year – only the new entrants for apprenticeships in each of the last three years.]**

Response:

There have been no formal Apprenticeships provided by SHSCT or commenced by SHSCT employees in 2022/23, 2023/24, or 2024/25.

However, in 2025/26 a regional Pilot Project for a Diagnostic Radiography Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) with the University of Derby (UoD) is in development. One SHSCT apprentice has been identified and is due to commence their apprenticeship in January 2026.

A regional group has also been established to gauge the suitability of Public Sector Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLA's) to healthcare roles, with an aspiration to develop a Higher Level Apprenticeship programme in parallel with the pilot project that could be delivered by a local provider in the future, should the pilot be successful. The group comprises the Department of Health (DoH), Department for the Economy (DfE), University of Ulster & Society of Radiographers.

- 2. Can you provide the current number of staffing vacancies/shortages at the Southern Health & Social Care Trust for each of the various categories of craft workers, tradespersons or other occupations for which a formal apprenticeship would be appropriate as a career pathway for a trainee worker?**

Response:

SHSCT currently does not have vacancies for roles that alternative career pathways do not already exist and that also relate to the NHS Apprenticeships listed on the NI

Direct website. However, as the regional work with DoH and DfE progresses, SHSCT is willing to explore potential apprenticeships in the future.

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