

FOI 3579

10th February 2026**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

1. **What is the number of medical consultant posts (all consultants regardless of specialty including HSC and honorary) in your health trust, by WTE, as of the 12th of January for each year 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 for the following categories (please note that posts should only be counted under ONE category):**
 - i. **posts occupied by a permanent consultant**
 - ii. **newly created consultant posts which have not yet been advertised**
 - iii. **vacant consultant posts according to the Workforce Statistics definition (“any position that is currently with the recruitment team and being actively recruited to. This will include those going through pre-employment checks, up to the point of a start date being agreed”)**
 - iv. **vacant consultant posts which are awaiting approval for recruitment or are on hold by managers**
 - v. **consultant posts which although currently unfilled are not under active recruitment, e.g. where a previous recruitment exercise has been unsuccessful**
 - vi. **all posts occupied by a locum consultant (including consultants re-engaged as locums who previously held a permanent post and those locum consultants employed via an agency)**
 - vii. **consultant posts that have been recruited to but applicant not yet in post (e.g. deferred start due to pending CCT)**
 - viii. **other (please be specific)**

2. **What is the number of specialty doctor posts in your health trust, by WTE, as of the 12th of January each year 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 for the following categories (please note that posts should only be counted under ONE category):**
 - i. **posts occupied by a permanent specialty doctor**
 - ii. **newly created specialty posts which have not yet been advertised**
 - iii. **vacant specialty posts according to the Workforce Statistics definition (“any position that is currently with the recruitment team and being**

- actively recruited to. This will include those going through pre-employment checks, up to the point of a start date being agreed”)
- iv. vacant specialty posts which are awaiting approval for recruitment or are on hold by managers
 - v. specialty posts which although currently unfilled are not under active recruitment, e.g. where a previous recruitment exercise has been unsuccessful
 - vi. all posts occupied by a locum specialty doctor (including those re-engaged as locums who previously held a permanent post and those employed via an agency)
 - vii. specialty posts that have been recruited to but applicant not yet in post (e.g. deferred start)
 - viii. other (please be specific)

3. What definition does your health trust use to define a vacancy?

Response:

Please see response attached.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net