

13 October 2025

## **Band 8D Posts**

1. It is significant that Belfast Trust currently has two Deputy Executive Director of Social Work posts at Band 8D, whereas my understanding is that other Trusts have a single equivalent role at Band 8C.
2. The FOI response indicates that one attachment has been provided. However, the body of the response makes reference to additional attachments. Please clarify, as it appears that only one attachment has been received. In particular, please confirm that the Job Description for the 2021-appointed Band 8D DEDSW is included. If it is not identical to the earlier post, please also provide details of the matching process undertaken at that stage.
3. I formally request all records relating to the approval of the 2021 Band 8D DEDSW post, including:
  - Minutes of the Executive Team or any other forum where this expenditure was discussed and agreed.
  - Any approvals trail, supporting papers, or correspondence leading to that decision I should request details of lead recruiter of this position also if executive team or the forum who agreed this post were aware of point 1.
4. Please also provide the names of meetings/forums chaired by DEDSW 1 and DEDSW 2. For now, it is sufficient to have the names and dates of such forums for the preceding 6 months. (I may make a further request for full minutes at a later stage.)
5. I request the specific minutes of meetings chaired by or work led by DEDSW 1 and DEDSW 2 in relation to Muckamore Abbey and to the numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) within the Trust. This should include any minutes or records of work specifically connected to Muckamore Abbey or to the LAC figures referenced in your earlier correspondence.
6. Please provide details of all occasions in the last 24 months when DEDSW 1 and DEDSW 2 have physically attended the Muckamore Abbey Hospital site.
7. Please provide the reference or specific dataset used for the LAC figures quoted in the Trust's earlier correspondence (noting the 29% LAC population reference).
8. In addition, as neither I nor my peers are from a clinical or health professional background, please provide an explanation of what is meant by "Looked After Children" in this context, and the scope of the statistic referenced, to aid clarity.

We have received three requests from you within the last 60 days:

34463 – Received 04/07/2025

**13 October 2025**

34749 – Received 18/08/2025

35063 – Received 26/09/2025 (current request)

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information, provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests:

- are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and

Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the Belfast Trust is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

We are therefore applying exemption 12(4) to all of your requests for information about Band 8D Posts as they were all received since 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your requests aggregated under the Fees Regulations as explained above would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply. We estimate that in our response to your 2 previous requests we have exceeded the 18 hour limit and so we are unable to advise how you can refine your request under Section 16 (Duty to Advise and Assist).

The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and public authorities the limit is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.