

14 May 2026

## **Cost to Fund Alliance Health rather than Pay NHS Staff Overtime for Various Tests**

**How much is it costing the NI taxpayer to fund Alliance Health to do tests using NHS staff and NHS facilities rather than performing this work within the NHS itself via overtime?**

**I know the cost of paying staff via private healthcare would be considerably more costly than paying the same NHS staff overtime to do the various tests within the NHS itself.**

Provision of unit costs, as per question above, is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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).

This is a Qualified Exemption and is therefore subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT). Belfast Trust has carried out a PIT and the outcome is to maintain the exemption and withhold the information from release, as to disclose it would result in the release of commercially sensitive information.

However, in order to assist as much as possible, Belfast Trust has provided the overall expenditure for insourced activity for 2025/26

We can also confirm that the Trust ensures all in-house capacity is exhausted prior to engagement with Independent Sector providers.

Please see below a table setting out the expenditure for insourcing initiatives with Independent Sector Providers for the financial period 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Specialties Supported</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
Alliance Clinical Services Limited	Endoscopy	£1,295,588
Alliance Clinical Services Limited	ENT	£337,060
Alliance Clinical Services Limited	Ophthalmology	£0
Alliance Medical Diagnostic Imaging (Northern Ireland) Limited	Cardiology	£190,005
EEG-Ireland.Com Limited	Neurophysiology	£110,563
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£1,933,216</b>

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Notes:

Where there is no expenditure stated above against a specialty, there has been no expenditure / anticipated expenditure within the financial period. However, there is a contract in place which allows the Trust to purchase services for the specialty where required.

All expenditure noted above is subject to confirmation of final invoiced charges (rounded to nearest pound). Expenditure via Insourcing is inclusive of the required procedure, as well as services to support specified patient pathway such as pre-assessments, histopathology, decontamination, etc. All factors affect the total spend.