

09/02/2015

**BY EMAIL**

Tel: 028 9536 3863  
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

Our Ref: FOI 7-2015

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

Your request for information was received on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to the late payment of invoices and staff absences.

Please see below your specific queries and the relevant responses. The responses for questions 2, 3 and 4 are only relevant to those organisations who receive a Human Resources service from BSO. Figures in relation to individual HSC Trust should be obtained via an FOI request directly from each Trust. I have provided the contact details below.

Trust	Email address
Belfast Trust	<a href="mailto:info@belfasttrust.hscni.net">info@belfasttrust.hscni.net</a>
Northern Trust	<a href="mailto:info.governance@northerntrust.hscni.net">info.governance@northerntrust.hscni.net</a>
South-Eastern Trust	<a href="mailto:foi.request@setrust.hscni.net">foi.request@setrust.hscni.net</a>
Southern Trust	<a href="mailto:foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net">foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net</a>
Western Trust	<a href="mailto:foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net">foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net</a>

### 1. The number of late payments/invoices to suppliers in the last 12 months

Please note that the BSO can only extract information from the current financial year; therefore in the period of April 2014 to present I can confirm that a total of 65 invoices were paid late.

### 2. How many staff are currently on stress leave in all Trusts

HSC Organisation	Number
Business Services Organisation	8
Health and Social Care Board	Less than 5
Public Health Agency	Less than 5
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority	Less than 5

\*Please note that organisations not listed returned a nil response.



**3. How many staff have been suspended in the last 3 years across all Trusts**

<b>HSC Organisation</b>	<b>Number</b>
Business Services Organisation	Less than 5

\*Please note that organisations not listed returned a nil response.

**4. How many grievances or disciplinary cases in the last 12 months have involved allegations of bullying**

<b>HSC Organisation</b>	<b>Number</b>
Business Services Organisation	Less than 5
Health and Social Care Board	Less than 5
Public Health Agency	Less than 5

\*Please note that organisations not listed returned a nil response.

To reduce the risk that individual employees could be identified the figures above have been quantified as 'less than 5'. In this regard it is believed that the release of exact figures would contravene both Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Personal Information) and the Principle 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (Fair and Lawful Processing).

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Administrative Services Manager,  
2 Franklin Street,  
Belfast,  
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

**Website:** [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**Phone:** 0303 123 1113

**Email:** [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

**David Bingham**  
Chief Executive