

Request

1. Up until this point, what has been the total cost of reducing the 19 health trusts to only 6?
2. I would like this figure to be broken down into how much was spent on:
 - a) Consultation and consultant reports.
 - b) Technical reports.
 - c) Changing signage.
 - d) Changing uniforms.
 - e) Making changes to vehicles.
 - f) Relocating offices.
 - g) Redundancy packages.
3. How many people, in total, were employed by the 19 trusts before the reduction?
4. How many people, in total, are now employed by the 6 trusts?

Response

The *total cost* of reducing the 19 Health Trusts to 6 is not readily available. This Department holds financial information for the costs incurred by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) under the Review of Public Administration (RPA). Other costs incurred by the health trusts to date as a result of RPA should be obtained directly from the trusts.

The costs that have been incurred to date by DHSSPS as a result of reducing the trusts from 19 to 6 is £8.6m. This can be further analysed as:

- £2.1m – costs incurred by the new trusts in their transitional status between the establishment date of 1 August 2006 and their operational date (1 April 2007). These costs were charged by the Trusts to DHSSPS and included gross salary costs of the newly appointed staff during this period and other administrative costs such as repairs and maintenance, miscellaneous office equipment and accommodation.
- £6.5m – costs recharged to date by the Trusts for voluntary early retirement and voluntary redundancy for Chief Executives and Directors of the legacy Trusts.

The breakdown of these costs that you have requested is not readily available. We do not hold information on the costs of technical reports, changing signage, changing uniforms, making changes to vehicles and relocating offices. Included within the costs detailed above is £7,300 for consultants' costs.

In terms of staff numbers, the headcount for the 19 Trusts as at 31 March 2007 was 57,684 and the number of whole time equivalents was 49,426. As at 31 December 2007 (latest available) these figures were 58,408 and 49,990, respectively. These figures have been taken from Key Facts Workforce Bulletin and are available on the Extranet site:

[Statistics and Research | HPSS Workforce | DHSSPS \(NI\)](#)