



FOI REF: 21/198

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://www.esht.nhs.uk)

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- 1. How many people have died from Covid-19 in East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust Hospitals from 1st January 2020 to 20th March 2021, this is to include only patients who have had positive Covid-19 tests and have not died with pre-existing conditions.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record whether a patient that died from Covid-19 had any pre-existing conditions. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of death certificates.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

- 2. How many patients at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust Hospitals are there currently with confirmed Covid-19?**

Four confirmed Covid-19 patients were recorded as being at the Trust on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to Lynette Wells, Director of Corporate Affairs, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust ([lynette.wells2@nhs.net](mailto:lynette.wells2@nhs.net)) quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

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