

FOI REF: 21/162

29th April 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: 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. Does your long covid clinic assess a) respiratory and/or vascular concerns b) A + fatigue and exhaustion c) B + mental health concerns and other factors

The Post Covid Assessment service is an Allied Health Professional led and delivered service so in respect of this question.

- a) The service supports patients with breathlessness providing that there are no clinical indicators of concern. The Post Covid Screening tool which is undertaken by primary care would identify any patient with clinical respiratory or cardio vascular concerns that require further diagnostics and refer to appropriate secondary care pathways.
- b) Yes, the team supports patients with ongoing fatigue and exhaustion. If there are elements that require very specialist chronic fatigue management then they are referred to the Sussex Chronic fatigue service.
- c) The post Covid service Multi-Disciplinary Team also includes colleagues from the Improving Access to Psychological Therapy service and our neuropsychologist. Patients are discussed within team using a stratified approach to signpost to the right care.

2. How many people has your clinic assessed between 1 December 2020 and 22 March 2021?

We are applying a section 22 exemption to this part of your request, as the data is intended for future publication by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

3. How many people are on your waiting list as of the 22 March 2021?

We are applying a section 22 exemption to this part of your request, as the data is intended for future publication by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

4. Do you accept referrals from people who were not hospitalized with coronavirus?

Yes.

5. Do you accept referrals from people who were not tested for coronavirus and therefore did not receive a positive diagnosis?

Yes, it is based on clinical diagnosis rather than diagnostics i.e. those who were suspected of having covid-19 due to presentation as many patients contracted coronavirus pre mass testing.

6. How is your clinic funded: a) through government funding b) through ICS/CCG funding c) by the trust itself d) a mix of the three

Currently this is national funding which is overseen by the integrated care system and delivered at place by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust and East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. Oversight will transition to the Sussex central commissioning team and the funding is still from NHS England (government) funding.

7. Are you able to treat all the patients that are referred to you within your current funding agreement?

No, there are significant capacity and demand challenges within the current resource.

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) quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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