



FOI REF: 21/219

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

24th June 2021

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:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you supply responses to the following questions please:

1. **The number of Full time (FT) and Part Time (PT) employees in your Trust in:**
 - a. **March 2020 (Total number; split into Medical and Support staff)**
[672 Medical & 6,874 Other staff.](#)
 - b. **March 2021 (Total number; split into Medical and Support staff)**
[694 Medical & 7,132 Other staff.](#)

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2. The number of Trust employees absent from work during the months March 2020 to March 2021 inclusive, in the following format:

Description	Distinct headcount of all sickness and Covid other absence in month on at least one occasion	Distinct headcount of all Covid sickness and Covid other absence in month on at least one occasion
Month	Total number absent	Absent due to Covid-19
Mar-20	2,441	1,271
Apr-20	2,389	1,506
May-20	1,614	722
Jun-20	1,468	468
Jul-20	1,446	425
Aug-20	1,351	274
Sep-20	1,602	443
Oct-20	1,602	461
Nov-20	1,743	654
Dec-20	2,348	1,228
Jan-21	2,777	1,660
Feb-21	1,757	726
Mar-21	1,689	440

If the data is held weekly, then please average the numbers across the month or provide the weekly data if easier.

3. The number of Trust employees absent from work due to a Test and Trace requirement to isolate. As above, if the data is held weekly then please average the numbers across the month or provide the weekly data if easier.

Description	Distinct headcount of all Covid test & trace absence in month
Month	Absent due to Test & Trace
Mar-20	-
Apr-20	-
May-20	-
Jun-20	2
Jul-20	11
Aug-20	9
Sep-20	16
Oct-20	20
Nov-20	63
Dec-20	80
Jan-21	96
Feb-21	15
Mar-21	5

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4. The total number of beds across the Hospital(s) in your Trust

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's bed numbers are available on NHS England website via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/bed-availability-and-occupancy/bed-data-day-only>

5. The total number of beds unused due to Covid-19 infection control measures (commonly referred to as 'red'/'green' pathways). Please provide these figures month by month from March 2020 to March 2021.

The Trust does not centrally record the total number of beds unused due to Covid-19. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of daily sitrep.

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.

6. The number of retired staff returning to the Trust from March 2021 onwards to practice during Covid-19.

There have been 10 staff who have retired and returned since March 2021. We cannot say if this was specifically for Covid-19.

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 the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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