

FOI REF: 21/675

DATE 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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) Please could you provide me with the number of A&E admissions relating to so-called “injection-spiking” in 2021, by month? Of these, how many patients had tests taken for toxicology and what were the outcomes? If possible, please can you break this down into types of test (e.g. blood/urine/hair), length of time since incident (“within 12hrs”, “within 24hrs” and “within 72hrs”), demographic of patient and type of drug found (if any).**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not hold this information. Spiking of drinks or covert injection of substances is a criminal matter and is investigated by the relevant police service – Health Services do not establish the causative factor which is why it will not be possible to pull this information from our systems.

Would you, therefore, please contact Sussex Police via the following link for a response to your request:

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/rip/request-information-police/request-information-about-police/FOI-request-form/>

- 2) Please could you provide me with the number of A&E admissions relating to so-called “drink-spiking” between Jan 2015 - Dec 2021? Of these, how many patients had tests taken for toxicology and what were the outcomes? If possible, please can you break this down into types of test (e.g. blood/urine/hair), length of time since incident (“within 12hrs”, “within 24hrs” and “within 72hrs”), demographic of patient and type of drug found (if any).**

Please see above.

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- 3) **Please could you provide me with the Trust's current policy at A&E for testing for reported or suspected "injection-spiking" in patients? If possible, please include information on whether tests are done, even when not clinically necessary e.g. for benefit of capturing the information / early evidence for police in case of subsequent reporting.**

[Please refer to question 1.](#)

- 4) **Please could you provide me with the Trust's current policy at A&E for testing for reported or suspected "drink-spiking" in patients? If possible, please include information on whether tests are done, even when not clinically necessary e.g. for benefit of capturing the information / early evidence for police in case of subsequent reporting.**

[Please refer to question 1.](#)

- 5) **Please could you tell me what funding, if any, the Trust has received (directly or indirectly) from the Home Office's Safety of Women at Night Fund (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-awarded-for-new-projects-to-keep-women-safe>)?**

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust has not received any income from the Home Office's Safety of Women at Night Fund.](#)

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](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)  
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