

FOI REF: 22/560

19<sup>th</sup> October 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:

- **In the years between 2018 to 2022, how many permanent employees voluntarily opted out of the NHS pension scheme?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of employees who opted out of the NHS pension scheme. To enable the Trust to provide the information requested would require a manual review of over 9,000 files. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

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.

- **In the years between 2018 to 2022, how many employees requested to opt into the NHS pension scheme?**

The Trust does not centrally record when an employee opts into the NHS pension scheme. To enable the Trust to provide the information requested would require a manual review of over 9,000 files. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request, please see above.

Cont.../

- **In the years between 2018 to 2022, how many people employed on a permanent contract were aged 66 and above?**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of People</b>
2018 (Dec)	129
2019 (Dec)	151
2020 (Dec)	146
2021 (Dec)	152
2022(August)	168

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, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)  
Corporate Governance Manager  
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