

FOI REF: 22/589

31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

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## 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:

**I would like to submit an FOI regarding the economic costs of Hypertension. Specifically stroke related and heart-attack related hypertension.**

**Please could I have the total cost of managing hypertension for the following years: 2018,2019,2020,2021 and 2022 (for the year 2022 up to and including the 31st August 2022).**

**Please could the results be grouped:**

- 1. annually,**
- 2. By stroke related Hypertension per patient. Please split this by direct and indirect (social) costs.**
- 3. By Heart attack related hypertension per patient. Please split this by direct and indirect (social) costs.**

**Managing hypertension would include: preventing, screening and treating costs associated with hypertension.**

**If providing costs 'per patient' is not possible, please feel free to use 'costs per episode' instead.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the information requested, either per patient or per episode. To enable the Trust to provide any information would require a manual review by patient or by single episode of hypertension, which we estimate would take a minimum of a week. Please also note that the Trust only holds the data for the last 2 years due to a software change. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to 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

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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.

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  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)