

7th February 2023

Eastbourne District General Hospital
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Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

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:

- A. When and where was the last referral to an open MRI made?**
- B. How many open MRI referrals have been made by the Eye Department?**
- C. Has anyone ever been referred for an MRI with Claustrophobia from Eastbourne hospital to an open MRI anywhere else in the country?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record referrals that have been made for an open MRI. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of 1000's of patients' notes which would exceed the 18-hour allocated timescale. 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.

However, we can confirm that the Trust does refer patients' to an open MRI and that there are open MRI facilities in:-

- The Upright MRI Centre London
- Harley Street
- Vista Health.

Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in our response and if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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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), 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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