

FOI REF: 23/061

17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Eastbourne District General Hospital  
Kings Drive  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

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:

**I am asking for the number of medical negligence claims made against the individual NHS hospitals within your Trust in the last full year. I require the following details within the information you provide:**

**1. Hospital name**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) is an integrated Trust providing acute and community services. The Trust provides services from two acute hospital sites at Eastbourne District General Hospital and Conquest Hospital and two community hospital sites at Bexhill Hospital and Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital.

**2. Trust name**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust.

**3. Year of data**

As stated below.

**4. Number of admissions**

102,844 (all admission methods; elective, emergency, maternity and other for calendar year 2022).

**5. Number of hospital beds**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Bed occupancy information can be sourced from the below link:

[Statistics » COVID-19 Hospital Activity \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Acute hospital bed availability information can be sourced from the below link:

[Statistics » Urgent and Emergency Care Daily Situation Reports 2022-23 \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

Bexhill Hospital has 54 beds open and Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital has 19 beds open.

## **6. Number of negligence claims received**

The information requested above is collated by NHS Resolution and is available via their website which can be accessed using the link below:

[Factsheet 5 – trust and authority claims data 2020/21 - NHS Resolution](#)

For further information, Freedom of Information requests to NHS Resolution can be made via the link below:

<https://resolution.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/>

## **7. Number of Letters of Claims received**

The information requested above is collated by NHS Resolution and is available via their website which can be accessed using the link below:

[Factsheet 5 – trust and authority claims data 2020/21 - NHS Resolution](#)

For further information, Freedom of Information requests to NHS Resolution can be made via the link below:

<https://resolution.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/>

**8. How many SIRI / RCA / Serious Incident reports have you prepared**

Clarification was sought asking you to confirm if this refers to Medical Negligence Claims only, or the total number of SIRI/RCA/Serious Incident reports for the Trust and confirmation was received as follows:

With regards to the number of SIRI/RCA/Serious Incident reports, this refers to the total number of SIRI/RCA/Serious Incident reports for each individual hospital within the Trust.

During 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, we had 40 SI's raised.

Identified by the service/hospital covered by ESHT:

Conquest	21
Eastbourne	15
Rye	2
Bexhill	1
Community Services – Podiatry Outpatients	1

**9. Number of claims settled**

The information requested above is collated by NHS Resolution and is available via their website which can be accessed using the link below:

[Factsheet 5 – trust and authority claims data 2020/21 - NHS Resolution](#)

For further information, Freedom of Information requests to NHS Resolution can be made via the link below:

<https://resolution.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/>

**10. Amount of compensation paid out**

The information requested above is collated by NHS Resolution and is available via their website which can be accessed using the link below:

[Factsheet 5 – trust and authority claims data 2020/21 - NHS Resolution](#)

For further information, Freedom of Information requests to NHS Resolution can be made via the link below:

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**11. Does the hospital have a maternity ward?**

The Trust have a consultant led maternity unit at Conquest Hospital and a midwifery led unit at Eastbourne District Hospital.

## 12. Gender of claimants % (male/female/other)

The information requested above is collated by NHS Resolution and is available via their website which can be accessed using the link below:

[Factsheet 5 – trust and authority claims data 2020/21 - NHS Resolution](#)

For further information, Freedom of Information requests to NHS Resolution can be made via the link below:

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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)