

FOI REF: 23/103

7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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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:

**Could you please provide the following information relating to general anaesthesia (GA) paediatric dental waiting times for children under 18 in hospitals managed by your Trust.**

- 1. Total number of children currently on your waiting lists and for each of the past five years.**

Figures taken from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January of the following years:

2019	72
2020	105
2021	100
2022	148
2023	130

- 2. The average waiting time from referral to treatment by year for each of the past five years.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the average waiting time from referral to treatment. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of approximately 3000 patients notes, which we estimate would take in the region of 250 hours to collate. 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.

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**3. The total number of children currently on the waiting list who have waited more than**

a) six months 2

b) one year 0

c) 18 months 0

**4. The five longest waits faced by people currently on the waiting list in days.**

The five longest waits in days are:

217, 217, 133, 126, 119

**5. The number of children (under 18s) who have a surgical procedure cancelled or delayed at your trust, in each of the past five calendar years (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018).**

We do not hold this information.

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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