

FOI REF: 23/142

19th March 2023

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
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:

For each financial year from 2010/11 to 2022/23, please can you provide the total number of inpatient falls recorded at hospital, the total number of those falls resulting in injury to the patient, the total number of those falls resulting in death of the patient.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust did not centrally record whether a patient fall was an inpatient or outpatient prior to 2019. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of 13951 incidents which we estimate would take longer than the 18-hour 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, please see the attached document for the number of patient falls. We have included falls in areas adjacent to ward areas, but as noted above, without going through each incident and checking the patient details, we cannot be absolutely certain that all patients were *inpatients* prior to 2019.

2022/23 data is up to the 20th February 2023.

Please can you provide this information in spreadsheet format as an Excel file, broken down by each year, as above, with the data on the inpatient falls provided for each year, as above?

Please see attached document and note above.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cont.../

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
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net

FOI 23-142 - East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

FOI - ESHT Patient falls incidents in period 1st April 2010 to 20th February 2023 (22/23 financial year data is therefore incomplete)

Data displayed for FOI criteria

Incidents by Severity and Reported	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Falls resulting in injury (total of severity 2/3/4 incidents)	733	669	621	569	506	520	407	317	323	311	318	360	494	6148
Falls resulting in death (severity 5)	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	10
Totals:	2112	2088	2092	1881	1534	1537	1416	1291	1234	1163	1253	1334	1560	20495

2022/23 data is only up to 20/02/2023