

15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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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:

**1. The number of operating theatres (OTs) in your Trust by type (e.g., day case, general, obstetrics etc.)**

Conquest:	9 theatres
Bexhill Hospital	1 theatre
Eastbourne DGH	11 theatres
Sussex Premier Health:	2 theatres
Uckfield	1 theatre

### Conquest Hospital

Theatre 1 Colorectal/General surgery: Conventional Ventilation  
Theatre 2 Colorectal/General and Breast Surgery: Conventional Ventilation.  
Theatre 6 Gynae Surgery/ENT : Conventional Ventilation  
Theatre 7 CEPOD: Conventional Ventilation  
Theatres 3,4,5 : UVC Ultra Clean Ventilation Orthopaedics and Trauma  
Theatre 8 : Ultra Clean UVC Orthopaedics and General Surgery and Colorectal  
Obs Theatre : Conventional Ventilation  
Obs Annex : Conventional Ventilation. ( only used for Cat 1 sections if Obs theatre is in use).Ventilation part of the main theatre ventilation.

### Bexhill Hospital

Ophthalmic Day Unit: Conventional Ventilation

### Eastbourne District General Hospital (EDGH) - Main Theatres

Theatre 1 Orthopaedics and Trauma, Laminar Flow  
Theatre 2 Orthopaedics and Trauma, Laminar Flow  
Theatre 3 Ent/ Max fax, Conventional Vent  
Theatre 4 Breast/ General, Conventional Vent  
Theatre 5 Robotics and Urology, Conventional Vent  
Theatre 6 Urology, Conventional Vent  
Theatre 7 Ent/ Max fax, Conventional Vent  
Theatre 8 Gynae/ Urology, Conventional Vent

Cont.../

## **EDGH – Day Surgery Unit**

Theatre 10 Urology/ Orthopaedics/ ENT/ MAX FAX, Conventional Vent  
Theatre 11 Dental/ Urology/ Orthopaedics/ ENT/ MAX FAX, Conventional Vent

## **EDGH - Jubilee Eye suite**

Theatre Jubilee, Ophthalmics, Conventional Vent

## **Sussex Premier Health**

Both are theatres for all specialities here including;

Ophthalmology (mostly theatre 1)  
ENT (mostly theatre 1)  
Gynae (mostly theatre 1)  
General (mostly theatre 1)  
Plastics (mostly theatre 1)  
Dental  
Urology  
Orthopaedics (mostly in theatre 2)  
Spinal (mostly in theatre 2)

## **Uckfield Day surgery Unit**

1 theatre: Dermatology/Max Fax/Urology/Ophthalmology/Vascular/ QVH have use of theatres every Monday for Max Fax (offers 10 sessions per week).

2. **For each type of OT (e.g., day, general, obstetrics etc.), please provide the number of OTs:**
- a) **With no ventilation system**
  - b) **With a 'conventional' ventilation system**
  - c) **With an Ultra Clean Ventilation (UCV) / laminar flow ventilation system**
  - d) **That are 'Integrated' OTs (e.g. connected by a digital control panel)**

All theatres are ventilated. Conquest has 4 UCV theatres, the remaining 5 theatres are ventilated conventionally. Sussex Premier Health has 2 UCV theatres. EDGH has 2 UCV theatres, the remaining 9 theatres are ventilated conventionally. Uckfield DSU conventional ventilation.

3. **The number of OT ventilation system that were refurbished/replaced in the last 5 years. For each, please list the supplier and capital cost of the equipment**

Conquest 5

Booker and Best – included within a capital contract circa £1.5 million.

**4 For OT ventilation systems, where there is a servicing agreement, please specify:**

**a) Total value and duration of the servicing contract**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, in respect of the total value of the service agreement, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

We have concluded that by providing the total value of the contract could cause harm to the Trust as this could distort the market-place and therefore, result in the Trust not obtaining best value for money.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

However, we can confirm that this is a 3-year agreement.

**b) Provider of the servicing contract**

Urmson

**c) Renewal date**

31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

**d) Type of agreement (e.g., framework, warranty, tender etc.)**

Warranty.

**5. Your Trust's annual capital equipment spend on the following OT equipment, for the last 5 years**

- a) OT ventilation systems**
- b) Theatre control panels**
- c) Operating lights**
- d) Medical pendants**
- e) Mobile ventilation systems**

We do not evidence this as capital equipment as it is purchased within lump sum building contracts.

**6. The annual number of surgeries performed outside of an operating theatre, for the last 5 years**

Clarification was sought asking you to clarify what you mean by surgeries outside of an operating theatre, as we would need to know this to make sure we collate the correct information and confirmation was received as follows:

**My request relates to any surgical procedure where a surgical site (or open wound) is created.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of surgeries performed outside of an operating theatre. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients' notes which we estimate would take longer than 18 hours. 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.

**a) The number of those where a mobile ventilation system was used for the same period**

Please refer to question 1.

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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