

FOI REF: 23/188

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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East Sussex
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5th April 2023

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

Via email to:

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:

Patient care and support services

Continuity of essential clinical support services

1. **Any record of whether procedures exist to ensure operational continuity of essential clinical support or ancillary services (e.g. laboratory, radiology, pharmacy) during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes.

2. **Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes.

3. **Any record of whether resources to implement the above procedures can be mobilized at all times. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes, for most services but not for Pathology.

Expansion of usable space for mass casualty incidents

4. **Any record of whether procedures and resources exist to expand space and provide access to extra beds in mass casualty incidents. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes – East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust had to expand Critical Care during COVID and this meant changing wards, which we could use the same principles during a mass casualty incident.

5. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Not specific training but this is done via an Incident Management Team.

6. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)

Throughout COVID - March 2020 to March 2022.

Triage for major emergencies and disasters

7. Any record of whether space has been designated and procedures exist to carry out triage during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

8. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

9. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)

These procedures are due to be tested within the next 12 months as there has been significant changes and updates to the Trust Major Incident Plan.

Triage tags for mass casualty incidents

10. Any record the existence of triage tags for mass casualty incidents. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

System for referral, transfer and reception of patients

11. Any record of whether procedures exist for the reception, referral and transfer of patients to and from other health facilities within and outside the geographical area where the hospital is located during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes - We are part of the Sussex Major Trauma Network which would be used to refer and support transfer of patients. Internally we are prepared to receive patients from a Major Incident and our Incident Coordination Centre would handle the potential receipt of transferred patients.

12. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

13. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)

November 2018.

Infection surveillance, prevention and control procedures

14. Any record of whether procedures exist for infection prevention and control during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

15. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

16. Any record of whether resources are available for implementation of the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

Psychosocial services

17. Any record of whether procedures exist for provision of psychosocial support, assessment and treatment services to patients, families and staff during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

18. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes - Trauma Risk Management (TRiM).

19. Any record of whether resources are available for implementation of the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes - TRiM and Psychological Wellbeing support from TWS Trauma Therapists.

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), 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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