

FOI REF: 23/432

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

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

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 outlining my query as specifically as possible to assist you with this request. I would like to know:**

**Q1a) Is any of the product(s) purchased/used in your hospital contain Chitin / Chitosan (e.g. surgical sutures, materials in wound healing/tissue engineering/dentistry/drug delivery)?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record products that contain Chitin / Chitosan. To enable the Trust to establish if we hold this information would require a manual review of products purchased by the Trust, which we estimate would take over 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.

**If the answer to Q1a is Yes then skip to Q2a.**

**If the answer to Q1a is No then:**

**Q1b) Do you plan on utilizing products containing Chitin / Chitosan in the next two years?**

No.

If the answer to Q1b is No, you may skip the rest of the questionnaire.

If the answer to Q1b is Yes, answer Q2a and then you may skip the rest of the questionnaire.

**Q2a) What product(s) do you have in the hospital (or intend to purchase) that contain(s) Chitin / Chitosan?**

Not applicable, please refer to question 1b.

**Q2b) For each product listed in response to Question Q2a, could you please provide the following details:**

- The product's brand name.
- The purpose of the product and in which department it is used.
- The approximate volume of the product used/purchased over the last financial year (1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023).

Not applicable, please refer to question 1b.

**Q3) Has the hospital received any complaints or filed any cases of side effects from using the Chitin / Chitosan product(s) mentioned above? If so, please provide detail of the following:**

- a) Number of cases in years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023
- b) description of the most three common side effects
- c) Which product(s) caused the most commonly seen side effects

Not applicable, please refer to question 1b.

**Q4) Is there any limitation(s), certification(s), or regulatory requirement(s) that are bounded when utilizing Chitin / Chitosan in the hospital (i.e. ISO standards or Ethics, etc)? If so, please specify.**

Not applicable, please refer to question 1b.

**Q5) Is the hospital currently or will be promoting any new products containing Chitin or Chitosan?**

Not applicable, please refer to question 1b.

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.

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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)