



FOI REF: 23/559

18th September 2023

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:

I am writing about hearing loss diagnosis in children. Please find all relevant questions in the attached document.

Please see the attached document and note the following:

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of children diagnosed with hearing loss as requested. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients notes which we estimate would take in excess of 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 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.

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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

PLEASE FILL OUT THE BELOW FORM FOR YOUR TRUST.

Q1	Q1.a	Q1.b	Q2	Q 2.a: If Yes to Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4.a: If Yes to Q4
How many children were diagnosed with hearing loss at your trust over the last 10 years?	Of the total number of children diagnosed with hearing loss in the last ten years, how many were diagnosed from each of the following age groups: i. Under 2 ii. Under 5 iii. Under 10 iv. Under 15 v. Under 18	Of the total number of children diagnosed with hearing loss in the last ten years, how many were diagnosed with each of the following types of hearing loss? i. Conductive Hearing Loss ii. Sensorineural Hearing Loss iii. Mixed Hearing Loss iv. Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder	Does your NHS Trust have a target timeframe for diagnosis for hearing loss? Yes/No	What number of children diagnosed with hearing loss received their diagnosis during this timeframe?	What is the average time elapsed between initial testing and diagnosis of hearing loss in children?	Does your Trust also have an audiology department? Yes/No	Could you please provide information on the minimum training and qualifications required for staff working in your audiology department?
159 children that were born within the last 10 years, were diagnosed with hearing loss, therefore older children with a later identified hearing loss are not included in numbers. Section 12(1) applied to the outstanding information, please see letter.	Section 12(1) applied, please see letter.	Section 12(1) applied, please see letter.	Yes, service meets the NHSP KPI NH2 for diagnosing neonates referred from NHSP screening. In addition, where permanent hearing loss is suspected in older children, further review should be made within 4 weeks.	Section 12(1) applied, please see letter.	21 days	Yes	BAAT parts 1&2 or BSC in Audiology, 2 years post-qualification clinical experience, including paediatric working