

FOI REF: 23/530

5th September 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:

I would like to request the following information please:

1) For the years:

- 2018/19
- 2019/20
- 2020/21
- 2021/22
- 2022/23

Please provide row level, non-identifiable data for:

- a) **Date of Admissions**
- b) **Discharge date**
- c) **Type of Admission**
- d) **Speciality**
- e) **Age Band**

I can confirm that we hold this information but it is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Personal Information of third parties. This is because this information may allow the identification of patients and disclosure would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act.

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

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2) For the years:

- **2018/19**
- **2019/20**
- **2020/21**
- **2021/22**
- **2022/23**

Please provide row level, non-identifiable data for:

- a) Date of Discharge**
- b) Total Bed Days**
- c) Total Bed Days (Criteria to Reside)**
- d) Total Bed Days (No Criteria to Reside)**
- e) Type of Admission**

I can confirm that we hold this information but it is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Personal Information of third parties. This is because this information may allow the identification of patients and disclosure would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act.

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

To enable the Trust to provide this level information would require a manual review of over 100,000 spells per year to ensure there are no data breaches. 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
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