



FOI REF: 23/544

25th October 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:

Please can the following information be provided for your organisation in full. If there have been any organisational changes within the timeframe request, such as mergers, please indicate this.

- 1) Please can you provide the last 3 years spend on specialist seating used for patients, ie recliners and tilt in space chairs not general staff or waiting type seating, excluding VAT, broken down by year ie 2020, 2021 and 2022. There is no preference on if this is fiscal or calendar year.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the spend for specialist seating. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of our order systems which we estimate would take in excess of 30 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.

Cont.../

- 2) In each of these years please could you highlight the 3 models you purchased / rented the most of by quantity.**

The Trust does not centrally record the models of the chairs we purchased/rented. These are purchased/rented specific to patient needs as are beds, commodes and hoists. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of our order systems which we estimate would take in excess of 30 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.

- 3) Do you purchase outright or rent/hire your specialist seating for the trust? If there is a mixture, please could you quantify the split per year for the last 3 years.**

All items are hired in to meet patient needs during their stay on our acute wards.

- 4) Please confirm which manufacturers of specialist seating your organisation purchased/rented from ie Ocura, DHG, Seating Matters, Remtec, Vivid Care, Premiere, Felgains Formal, Caremed. If multiple suppliers, please could you outline the top 3 by spend per year for 3 the last 3 years.**

The Trust does not centrally record the models of the chairs we purchased/rented. These are purchased/rented specific to patient needs as are beds, commodes and hoists. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of our order systems which we estimate would take in excess of 30 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.

- 5) **Are you currently in a specialist seating contract? If so who is this with, when does this run to and is there an agreed extension in place?**

No, we call off from compliant suppliers listed on public section purchasing frameworks, as requirements can vary, we use a selection of suppliers.

- 6) **Within the last 12 months has there been any entry to the trusts risk register with regards to specialist seating and if so has this been resolved or still open?**

There have been no entries onto the Trust's risk register relating to specialist seating in the last six months.

- 7) **Please can you provide the details of your hospitals care or multidisciplinary team (MDT's) that collaborate to provide fundamental care for patients.**

Full collaboration is via moving and handling / tissue viability teams.

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
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net