

FOI REF: 23/575

10th November 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 could I request the following information:

- 1) The number of people at your trust currently receiving treatment for cancer?**

Clarification was sought with regard to your definition of 'treatments', 'first treatments', 'subsequent treatments. Are you including patients who are having ongoing treatments, Palliative Care, Supportive treatments? Are you asking about ESHT patients waiting for treatment at ESHT only or do you want patients waiting for treatments at Tertiary providers who are sitting on our patient treatment list and confirmation was received as follows:

To answer your query I'm looking for all treatments.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of people currently receiving all treatment for cancer. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients' notes and also liaising with tertiary centres, who would also need to review patients' notes, which we estimate would take many weeks. 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.

2) The number of people at your trust currently waiting to receive treatment for cancer?

The Trust does not centrally record the number of people currently waiting to receive all treatment for cancer. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients' notes and also liaising with tertiary centres, who would also need to review patients' notes, which we estimate would take many weeks. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

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3) How long has the person who has waited the longest been waiting?

The Trust does not centrally record the longest wait for all treatment of cancer. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients' notes and also liaising with tertiary centres, who would also need to review patients' notes, which we estimate would take many weeks. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

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4) The number of people waiting to start cancer treatment, as measured from the date of urgent referral, who have waited longer than:

- a. 62 days**
- b. 3 months**
- c. 4 months**
- d. 6 months**
- e. 12 months**

The Trust does not centrally record the longest wait for all treatment of cancer. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients' notes and also liaising with tertiary centres, who would also need to review patients' notes, which we estimate would take many weeks. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

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5) The single longest wait to start cancer treatment, as measured from the date of the urgent referral, for each of the last three years?

2022	233 days (32 weeks)
2021	254 days (36 weeks)
2020	280 days (40 weeks)

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