

FOI REF: 23/713

16th 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:

Performance data against the following two metrics, for the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23:

- A) Proportion of service users presenting as emergency admissions who undergo sepsis screening and who, where screening is positive, receive IV antibiotic treatment within one hour of diagnosis.**
- B) Proportion of service user inpatients who undergo sepsis screening and who, where screening is positive, receive IV antibiotic treatment within one hour of diagnosis.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record whether patients who have attended the emergency departments have undergone sepsis screening and whether patients have received IV antibiotic treatment within one hour of a positive diagnosis. 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 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.

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Please provide the performance data by:

- 1) Proportion of service users presenting as emergency admissions who undergo sepsis screening.**
- 2) The proportion of those patients who, where screening is positive receive IV antibiotic treatment within one hour of diagnosis.**
- 3) The proportion of service user inpatients who undergo sepsis screening.**
- 4) The proportion of those patients who, where screening is positive receive IV antibiotic treatment within one hour of diagnosis.**

Please also break down the data by month, and please provide it in excel or CSV format.

[Section 12\(1\) applied, please refer to page 1.](#)

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
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