



FOI REF: 23/702

6th 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 can I request the following information on cancer diagnostic tests at your trust:

1) How many patients are currently on your trust's waiting list for a cancer diagnostic test?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record how many patients are on our Trust's waiting list for cancer diagnostic testing. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patient records which we estimate would take many hours work. 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.

The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the above limit based on the estimate that the time taken to retrieve this information from each record on average being 15 minutes and there being in excess of 2500 records to check resulting in the region of 625 hours of work.

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2) How many patients were on your trust's waiting list for a cancer diagnostic test 12 months ago?

Section 12(1) applied, please refer to question 1.

3) What is the longest time a patient has had to wait for a cancer diagnostic test in the last 12 months?

Section 12(1) applied, please see above.

4) How many cancer diagnostic tests have been cancelled by your trust for non-clinical reasons in the last 12 months?

Section 12(1) applied, please see above.

5) What is the highest number of times a cancer diagnostic test for one patient has been cancelled by your trust for non-clinical reasons in the last 12 months?

Section 12(1) applied, please see above.

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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