



FOI REF: 23/753

1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

## 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:

- 1) The number of patient safety incidents (as described by Patient Safety Incident Response Framework) and serious incidents (as described by the Serious Incident Framework) identified by your trust which have affected communications (including discharge summaries, clinic letters and anything similar) from your trust to GPs in your area in the past 10 years.**

Please see below, the number of reported treatment delays/delays in diagnosis and test results, broken down by year:

2012	3
2013	2
2014	5
2015	9
2016	12
2017	8
2018	16
2019	14
2020	14
2021	11
2022	4
2023 (up to 31/10/2023)	9

**2) How many communications (approximately) have been affected by each of these incidents.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of communications that have been affected by each of these incidents. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of each Serious Incident report, of which these reports vary from 15 to 50 pages, which we estimate would take in excess of 18 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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)