

FOI REF: 24/209

3rd April 2024

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

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:

For the last 3 tax years (23/22, 22/21, 21/20) please provide the total cost of:

- 1) **Total number of staff hired with responsibility for Freedom of Information requests, (full time equivalent).**

2020/21	1.5
2021/22	1.5
2022/23	1.5

- 2) **Total salary costs for staff with responsibility for Freedom of Information requests.**

2020/21	£39,505
2021/22	£40,362
2022/23	£43,593

- 3) **Total for all other costs associated with handling Freedom of Information requests.**

2020/21	We do not hold this information.
2021/22	We do not hold this information.
2022/23	We do not hold this information.

- 4) **Total number of Freedom of Information requests received, and total number responded with the requested information.**

Please see below the number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received for the period requested:

2020/21	549
2021/22	699
2022/23	798

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East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the total number of FOIs responded with the requested information. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of each FOI request received for the period requested, to establish if we had actually provided the information requested, 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), 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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net