

5th June 2024

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Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://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:

**I would like to request the following information regarding patients seeking treatment for physical complications from dermal filler and Botulinum toxin injections, such as nodule formation, discolouration, migration and herpetic outbreaks:**

- 1) The total number of patients that have been treated at all your hospitals for botched non-surgical procedures for quarter 2 of 2023-2024.**

**Clarification was sought asking you to confirm your definition of 'botched procedure' and confirmation was received that you require the following:**

**Botched refers to instances where patients received adverse outcomes as a result of Botox or dermal fillers, such as bruising and swelling.**

Section 12 – Exemption applied.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not record A&E attendance of a patient as the result of Botox or Dermal Fillers. There is no subject code for this type of procedure to be reported on within systems. Any treatment would be recorded as the presenting symptom such as bruising or swelling for example. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review medical notes of each individual that attended A&E with any number of associated conditions (such as bruising or swelling) We estimate this would take well over 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.

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- 2) **Total cost of treating botched non-surgical procedures at all your hospitals for quarter 2 of 2023-2024.**

We do not hold the information requested.

- 3) **The total number of patients that all of your hospitals have referred to private clinics to treat botched non-surgical procedures for quarter 2 of 2023-2024.**

We do not hold the information requested.

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

Freedom of Information Department  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)