



FOI REF: 24/626

25th September 2024

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:

- 1. Does your hospital trust allow patients to have their Personal Assistant/paid carers assist them in hospital settings?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) take an individualised approach to patient care. If the patient's care is enhanced by their personal carers then yes we would allow them to be with the patient, not instead of the specialised medical care, but to assist with activities of daily living.

- 2. Does your trust have a protocol or policy in place regarding Personal Assistants/paid carers assisting with complex care needs in hospital settings? What is it?**

ESHT have developed a Carer's Passport which we encourage carers to complete. We also have a standard operating procedure for the self or parent/carer administration of medicines.

- 3. How many times in the last 3 years has a patient had their care needs met by their usual PAs/paid carers whilst in hospital?**

We do not collect this information formally, but we do allow paid carers to assist with care if this will benefit the patient. This occurs most frequently with patients who have Learning Disability.

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