

FOI REF: 24/654

8th October 2024

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Eastbourne
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Tel: 0300 131 4500
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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 include the following information for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24:

- Total expenditure by the NHS on Botox treatments (Botulinum toxin injections) for all purposes, including cosmetic and medical treatments, for each financial year.**

Year	Expenditure
2020/2021	£104,449
2021/2022	£187,658
2022/2023	£229,778
2023/2024	£233,204

- Total number of people that received botox treatments for each financial year**

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of Botox treatments as this is against current guidelines. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of all patient records which we estimate would take 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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3. **A breakdown of the spending on Botox treatments by medical necessity (e.g., for conditions such as chronic migraines, muscle spasms, excessive sweating, etc.) versus cosmetic purposes (if any such spending is applicable).**
- **In this breakdown include where on the body the treatment was administered.**

[A Section 12\(1\) exemption is applied, please see above for details.](#)

[Under FOIA Section 16 – Provide Advice & Guidance. We would inform you that numbers of people who received Botox during 2023-2024 \(financial year\) for chronic migraines \(only\) could be provided.](#)

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