



FOI REF: 24/908

20th January 2025

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. Do you have an out of hours communications/media relations process?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not operate a 'routine' out of hours media process, but we do have an out of hours media protocol for major incidents – the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Communications plan.

2. If yes, please provide a copy of your out of hours communications/media relations protocol.

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

Under FOIA Section 1 (1) (a) The trust can confirm it holds this information requested, however, it is applying a Section 31(1)(a) exemption because disclosure of this information under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

The Trust considers that the release of specific information about our EPRR Communications would make the Trust more vulnerable to crime.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in preventing the prejudice outweighs the public interest in disclosure due to the significant impact an attack within the Trust can have on staff, patients and the wider community.

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3. Do you have an out of hours communications/media relations rota?

No.

4. If yes, what are the pay arrangements/rate of pay for out of hours cover?

Not applicable.

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