

FOI REF: 25/008

24th January 2025

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:

1. How many international nurses did you recruit in 2023?

63.

2. How much did you spend on recruitment service fees for international nurses in 2023 in total?

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

Under Section FOIA Section 1(1)(a), East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) would confirm that it does hold the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

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.

We have concluded that sharing the spend could cause harm to the Trust as agencies may use this information across the ICS to request increased rates to not only ESHT but other Trusts across the NHS, which could put supply at risk.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

3. How many Filipino international nurses did you hire in 2023?

32.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cont.../

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