

FOI REF: 25/027

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

11th February 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:

Please may you provide me with:

- 1) How many secondary school aged pupils have arrived at A&E by ambulance as a result of vaping recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?**

Clarification was sought with regard to what age bracket you require for secondary school pupils, and confirmation was received that you require from 11 to 16 years olds inclusively.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the information requested above and does not routinely record this information. To enable the Trust to establish if we can provide this information would require a manual pull of all notes and review each ambulance form for each patient, which we estimate would take significantly more than 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.

However, South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust may hold this information, contact details as follows:

foi@secamb.nhs.uk

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- 2) **How many secondary school aged pupils have needed to be admitted to hospital as a result of vaping recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?**

Zero.

- 3) **Of those admitted to hospital, please list the number of admissions according to age during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?:**

***11 to 12 years old**
***13 to 15 years old**
***16 years old**
*** 17 to 18 years old**

Not applicable.

- 4) **How many of those vaping incidents with secondary school pupils recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, contained the following substances:**

THC;
Spice;
THC & Spice

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