

FOI REF: 25/147

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://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:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act please could you provide the total number of deaths considered to have been due to problems in care in East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust for the periods:**

**Clarification was sought asking if you wanted to know the number of deaths where a problem at ESHT has directly caused a person to die, or if it contributed to their death and was therefore not the direct cause and confirmation was received as follows:**

**Could you confirm whether you hold the information outlined in this press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-becomes-first-healthcare-system-in-the-world-to-publish-numbers-of-avoidable-deaths>?**

**I am looking at the total number of deaths considered more likely than not due to problems in care, as shown in the data template attached.**

- 1. 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020**
- 2. 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021**
- 3. 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022**
- 4. 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023**
- 5. 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024**

**To clarify, this is not a request asking for the total number of deaths but is specifically concerning those which are deemed to be due to problems in care.**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain. East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust take quarterly reports to the public board on the avoidability of patient deaths, which are published in the Board papers, and can be accessed via the following link:

[Archive agenda papers – East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust](#)

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This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

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](mailto: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](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)