East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

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FOI REF: 25/198

8th March 2025

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:

I would like to request the following information regarding the ophthalmology services and IT systems used within your Trust:

Ophthalmology Department & IT Record System:

1)   Does your Trust have an ophthalmology department and/or provide ophthalmology clinics?

Yes.

2)   If so, what is the name of the principal IT record system used to document results from patient consultations within ophthalmology?

mediSIGHT for Ophthalmology.

Imaging Capabilities & System Integration:

3)   Does the principal IT system allow clinicians to view images from scans conducted during a clinic visit?

Yes.

4) **Are there any types of medical images that cannot be imported into this principal IT system?**

Yes.

If so:

a) **What is the name of the IT programme used by clinicians to view these images?**

HENRY (the Trust's Clinical Image Database) and FORUM.

b) **What is the name of the scan/modality that generates these images?**

Medical Photographs – Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) / Visual Fields.

Data Integration with National Systems:

5) **Does the principal IT system integrate with the NHS Spine or other national patient record systems (e.g., OpenEyes, Medisoft, Epic)?**

No.

6) **Does the system support the exchange of structured data with other NHS Trusts or external healthcare providers?**

No.

Patient Access & Communication:

7) **Does the system allow patients to access their ophthalmology records, including images, via the NHS App or another patient portal?**

No.

8) **Are there any restrictions on how imaging data can be shared with patients and external providers?**

No.

Image Storage & Viewing Capabilities:

9) **What is the storage capacity and retention policy for ophthalmology-related imaging within the IT system?**

Storage is provided as required. Retention policy: a minimum of 12 years, but, in practice, indefinitely.

10) If images are not viewable within the principal IT system, does the Trust use a separate PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System) for ophthalmology imaging?

No.

Future IT Developments & Interoperability:

11) Is the Trust planning any upgrades or changes to its ophthalmology IT infrastructure in the next five years?

Version updates and some limited moves to Azure hosting.

12) Are there known interoperability challenges that affect the transfer of ophthalmology data within the Trust or between NHS organizations?

There is limited standardisation in this field, so challenges may exist.

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