



East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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East Sussex
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FOI REF: 25/221

14th April 2024

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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 am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to obtain data on NHS treatment of complications arising from surgical procedures performed overseas.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not record whether treatment of a patient is as a result of complications arising from surgical procedures performed overseas. There is no subject code for this type of procedure to be reported on within our Trust systems. Any treatment would be recorded as the presenting symptom such as infection, bruising or swelling for example. To enable the Trust to provide the information requested would require a manual review of the medical notes of every individual that attended A&E from January 2020 to January 2025 with any number of associated conditions. As this would require the review of hundreds of thousands of patient records this would take significantly over 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to 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.

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- 1. NHS Admissions for Complications Following Overseas Surgeries**
 - a. The total number of hospital admissions where the NHS has treated patients for complications resulting from surgeries conducted abroad.**
 - b. A yearly breakdown from January 2020 to January 2025 (or the most recent available period).**

[Section 12\(1\) applied, please refer to page 1.](#)

2. Breakdown of Patients Treated

For each year, please provide where available:

- a. Age group of patients (e.g.: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+).**
- b. Gender of patients.**

[Section 12\(1\) applied, please refer to page 1.](#)

3. Data Classified Under Relevant ICD-10 Codes (or their NHS equivalents):

Please provide a breakdown of cases recorded under the following ICD-10 codes related to complications of surgical procedures:

- a. T81 – Complications of procedures (e.g., infections, wound disruption, foreign bodies left in the body).**
- b. T82-T85 – Complications of prosthetic devices, implants, and grafts.**
- c. T86 – Failure and rejection of transplanted organs and tissues.**
- d. T87 – Complications of amputations and reattachments.**
- e. T88 – Other complications of surgical and medical care (including anaesthesia-related complications).**
- f. Y60-Y69 – Surgical errors and misadventures (e.g., accidental punctures, foreign objects left inside patients, failure of sterile precautions, inappropriate procedures).**
- g. Y70-Y79 – Medical devices associated with adverse incidents.**
- h. Y83-Y84 – Abnormal patient reactions or complications following surgery or other medical procedures.**

[Section 12\(1\) applied, please refer to page 1.](#)

4. Specific Details on Procedures Leading to NHS Admissions. Where available, please provide:

- a. The type of surgery the patient originally underwent abroad (e.g., cosmetic surgery, weight loss surgery, orthopaedic surgery, dental work, etc.).**
- b. The intended purpose of the surgery (e.g., aesthetic enhancement, weight loss, joint replacement, reconstructive surgery, etc.).**
- c. The type of complication requiring NHS intervention (e.g., infection, implant failure, excessive bleeding, wound breakdown, nerve damage, sepsis).**

[Section 12\(1\) applied, please refer to page 1.](#)

5. NHS Cost of Treating Complications from Overseas Surgeries

- a. The total annual cost incurred by the NHS in treating complications from overseas surgeries.**
- b. If available, an estimated breakdown of costs by procedure type.**

[The Trust does not hold the cost data for treating complications from overseas surgeries.](#)

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