

FOI REF: 25/251

21<sup>st</sup> May 2025

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:

**I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the provision of spirometry services within East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. I would appreciate details on the following:**

**1. Service Provision:**

- a. Does the Trust currently provide spirometry services in-house, or are these services outsourced/insourced to external providers?**

[In-house.](#)

- b. If outsourced or insourced, which providers are currently contracted, and under what terms?**

[Not applicable.](#)

- c. What are the eligibility criteria for external providers seeking subcontracting opportunities?**

[Not applicable.](#)

## 2. Tariff and Payment Model:

### a. What is the current tariff for spirometry services under the NHS Payment System?

There are three tariffs related to spirometry:

Test name & Description	HRG/TFC the activity most likely groups to	HRG Code name / Treatment function description	Price (£)
Spirometry	DZ59Z	Airflow Studies	95
Spirometry with Bronchodilator Response (Adults and Paediatrics)	DZ55Z	Bronchodilator Studies	158
Full Lung function tests (lung volumes, gas transfer and spirometry) (Adults and Paediatrics)	DZ45Z	Lung Volume Studies	265

### b. Is the service funded per test, per patient, or under a block contract arrangement?

This is a specific tariff under the Community Diagnostic Centre, introduced in 2025/26. This would only be applicable to Community Diagnostic Centre activity and would now technically be funded per patient as the Community Diagnostic Centre has moved away from being a block to an activity driven model, although elements are still block funded too.

### c. Does the Trust claim reimbursement for spirometry under any specific national or local NHS payment schemes?

The Trust does not currently carry out any spirometry activity that is chargeable under these tariffs.

## 3. Demand, Capacity, and Backlogs:

### a. How many spirometry tests were conducted annually in the last three years?

Approximately 4000 spirometry tests are conducted annually. This number is increasing with the new GP Direct Access clinics.

Cont.../

**b. What is the current backlog of patients awaiting spirometry testing?**

The Trust runs a lot of different clinics that provide spirometry. They are all funded differently and there are different waiting lists that the spirometry service does not deal with. Therefore, it is not possible to quantify the total number of patients currently awaiting spirometry testing.

**c. What is the average waiting time from referral to test?**

The waiting time is different for each clinic and depends on urgency - the Trust has 2 Week Wait slots and 6 Week Wait urgent slots. The average waiting time for a routine slot is approximately four months.

**d. Has the Trust implemented any initiatives to address spirometry service backlogs?**

The Trust has a new spirometry lead who runs clinics at the Conquest Hospital in St. Leonards-on-Sea, and GP Direct Access has been increased to two days per week.

**4. Commissioning and Procurement:**

**a. Who is responsible for commissioning or procuring spirometry services within the Trust?**

NHS Sussex are responsible for commissioning and procuring spirometry services within the Trust.

**b. Are there any planned tenders or procurement exercises for spirometry services in the next 12-24 months?**

Not applicable.

**c. What are the Trust's criteria for subcontracting spirometry services to external providers?**

Not applicable.

**5. Key Contact Information:**

**The name, role, telephone number, and email address of the individual responsible for spirometry service commissioning, procurement, or service management within the Trust.**

According to our Freedom of Information Policy we only release the names of staff on Grade 8a and above. The staff who manage the Trust's spirometry service are below a Grade 8a and therefore the details requested cannot be provided. The Service Manager for Respiratory Medicine is Amanda Stern.

We are unable to provide the contact details of staff as we consider this information to be exempt from release in accordance with section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act (Prohibition on disclosure) and would refer to the Privacy and Electronic Communications EC Directive Regulations 2003 which provide specific rules on electronic communication services, including marketing (by phone, fax, email or text) and keeping communications services secure. We will not provide any information that could result in the transmission of unsolicited communications which may place an unacceptable risk to our email network and could also have a detrimental impact on patient care and treatment.

The contact numbers for the Trust are accessible on the Trust website <http://www.esht.nhs.uk>.

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

**6. If there are any policies or documents relevant to the commissioning or provision of spirometry services, I would appreciate copies or links to them.**

The Trust does not have any policies or documents relevant to the commissioning or provision of spirometry services.

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)