

FOI REF: 25/324

22nd May 2025

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

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:

I am writing to request information regarding the use of mechanical ventilation within your hospital trust, specifically for patients undergoing an MRI scan and those requiring in-hospital transportation while intubated.

- 1) **What is the current policy for mechanical ventilation of patients undergoing an MRI scan within your NHS trust?**

[Health and Safety Management Ventilation Systems Safety Policy.](#)

- 2) **Which department has the primary responsibility for overseeing the mechanical ventilation of patients in the MRI suite? Is it the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or the MRI department?**

[Depends on indication for the MRI:](#)

- [Elective lists fortnightly at Eastbourne District General Hospital and Conquest Hospital. Mainly paediatric patients. The consultant anaesthetist allocated to the list oversees the mechanical ventilation of the patient.](#)
- [Sometimes, adult patients who are inpatients, who need urgent scans who are claustrophobic will be added to the elective MRI list. Again, it is the consultant anaesthetist who oversees the mechanical ventilation of the patient.](#)
- [Critically ill patients \(either directly from the emergency department, or intubated on the ward, or current patient on the intensive care unit\) who require urgent MRI scans will be transferred to the suite. The on-call anaesthetic team \(at least registrar level\) or the intensive care team \(at least registrar level\) will oversee mechanical ventilation of patient.](#)

- 3) **Which mechanical ventilators are currently used when conducting MRI scans on patients within your MRI department?**

[The Trust does not use mechanical ventilation devices within the MRI environment.](#)

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- 4) **Please provide the make, model, and age of the current mechanical transport ventilators used within your trust.**

Not applicable.

- 5) **Could you list the specific MRI-compatible ventilators currently in use within your trust?**

We have 2 MRI compliant anaesthesia systems complete with electronic ventilation support – both are the Penlon AVS system.

- 6) **Please provide the contact details (name, job title, and email/telephone) of the lead clinical person overseeing the use of mechanical transport ventilation within your trust.**

Mechanical transport ventilation falls under anaesthetics and critical care.

Three options:

Lead for remote anaesthesia

Dr Alex Trimmings

Consultant Anaesthetist with interest in Critical Care

Lead for resuscitation and transfer

Dr Charlotte Long

Consultant Anaesthetist with Interest in Critical Care

Clinical Director of Anaesthetics and Critical Care

Dr James Bennett

Consultant Anaesthetist

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 number 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.

7) Please provide the name and contact details of the technician responsible for overseeing the usage and maintenance of these ventilators within your trust.

Simeon Beaumont
Head of Clinical Engineering (EME)
esht.clinicalengineering@nhs.net

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