



**East Sussex Healthcare**  
NHS Trust

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

FOI REF: 25/332

11<sup>th</sup> June 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 detailed within the attached document – ‘25-332 - FOI Request Agency’.

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)

# Freedom of Information Request to NHS Trusts

Dear East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust,

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding your historic reliance on international healthcare staff and your long-term plans for the future. We have provided international recruitment services to the NHS for over 25 years and deployed over 22,000 healthcare workers to the UK. However, the past 12-18 months have seen a significant decline in international recruitment activity to the point where there are total freezes in some organisations. To help us navigate this change and support our candidates globally, we are seeking some information and data under the Freedom of Information Act, to understand your long-term recruitment and retention plans. Specifically, I would like to request details on the following:

## 1. Recruitment Agency Hires

**Clarification was sought with regard to what timeframe you require, and confirmation was received that you require April 2024 to April 2025.**

Please confirm the number of hires made for permanent posts, using a recruitment agency, broken down as follows:

- Number of Nurses including banding Nil
- Number of Doctors including grades- Consultant x3  
Spec Reg x3
- Number of Allied Health Professionals (AHP) including banding Nil

## 2. Agencies Utilised

Please confirm the agency/ies used for these hires and the framework(s) under which you contracted with them. Please also note any agencies with whom you partnered **off framework**, if any:

- Agency/ies used for the recruitment of the above detailed staff  
MSI.
- Framework(s) under which you contracted with the agency/ies  
HealthTrust Europe LLP Framework Agreement for the National and International Permanent Recruitment Solutions with Recruitment Process Optimisation (reference number: 2019-042671).
- Any agencies with whom you partnered **off framework**  
Not applicable, none off framework.

### 3. Future International Recruitment Plans

Do you plan to undertake international recruitment within the next 18 months for:

- Nurses

No.

- Doctors

No.

- Allied Health Professionals (AHP)

No.

### 4. Long Term Workforce Plans

If the answer is yes to Q3, please provide a further breakdown of possible requirements:

- Number of Nurses including banding
- Number of Doctors including grades
- Number of Allied Health Professionals (AHP) including banding

Not applicable.

### 5. International Recruitment (April 2024 to April 2025)

How many roles did you fill via international recruitment during the period April 2024 to April 2025? Please provide a further breakdown by:

- Number of Nurses including banding

Band 5 Nurses 70.

- Number of Doctors including grades

Consultant – 2, Middle Grade – 12.

- Number of Allied Health Professionals (AHP) including banding

Band 6/7 – 5.

### 6. Impact of International Recruitment

International recruitment has assisted in providing a consistent and sustainable workforce and has helped reduce temporary agency staffing and drive down recruitment costs in the long term. Do you:

It has been a factor but not the only one.

- Agree
- Disagree

## 7. Decision-Makers

Who is responsible for deciding if international recruitment is to be undertaken? Please provide:

- Name

Greig Woodfield

- Job Title

Assistant Director Resourcing HR