

FOI REF: 25/399

11th June 2025

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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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:

Please could you provide me with information for each of the following years 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020:

- 1. Has your trust been the victim of scammers, fraudsters or hackers targeting the NHS?**
- 2. Can you please provide details about any incident recorded by your trust? Can you please include any method used by scammers / fraudsters?**
- 3. How much was the cost financially of any fraudulent activity against your trust?**
- 4. If you suffered financial losses – how much was recovered?**

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

Under FOIA Section 31(3) the Trust neither confirm nor deny it holds the information requested and is applying a Section 31(1)(a) exemption because disclosure of this information under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

The Trust considers that providing information about our information security systems and our resilience to cyber-attacks would make the Trust more vulnerable to cyber-attack.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in preventing the prejudice outweighs the public interest in disclosure due to the significant impact a cyber-attack can have on staff, patients and the wider community.

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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