

EIR REF: 25/432

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500

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## ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

**I would like to request information regarding your current and planned usage of solar energy across your estate.**

**Please could you provide responses to the following questions:**

### 1. Governance & Responsibility

- a. **Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation?**

The Green Plan Steering Committee has overall responsibility for all our sustainability initiatives.

- b. **If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).**

The Committee is chaired by the Director of Estates and Facilities and in his absence by the Deputy Director of Estates and Capital. The Committee is made up of key members of staff drawn from across the Trust.

### 2. Current Solar Deployment

- a. **How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?**

One at Eastbourne District General Hospital.

- b. **What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?**

11,000

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- c. **What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?**

Variable based on the time of year and hours of sunshine.

### **3. Investment & Strategy**

- a. **Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation?**

Yes.

- b. **If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).**

This forms part of our Green and Decarbonisation plans, currently we are considering the use of geothermal technology.

### **4. Solar and Net Zero Commitments**

- a. **Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy?**

Yes.

- b. **If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?**

Reports and dashboards.

### **5. Future Plans**

- a. **Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years?**

No.

- b. **If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).**

Not applicable.

- c. **Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years?**

No.

- d. **If so, can these be shared?**

Not applicable.

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## 6. Procurement & Partnerships

- a. Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations?

Yes.

- b. If yes, which ones?

Veolia manage the Eastbourne District General Hospital installation as part of our Energy Performance Contract.

- c. Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?

No.

## 7. Battery Storage

- a. Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels?

No.

- b. Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?

Yes, as part of our wider approach to controlling energy costs.

## 8. Funding

- a. Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?

Yes, Salix supported by the Carbon Energy Fund.

## 9. Barriers

- a. What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?

Funding and suitable space to locate the panels.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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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 EIR 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)