



**East Sussex Healthcare**  
NHS Trust

FOI REF: 25/463

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

21<sup>st</sup> July 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:

**This is a request for details of instances in which East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (including, where applicable, any agencies, bodies, or units for which it is ultimately responsible for supplier payments) has failed to pay its suppliers on time, thereby causing liabilities for late payment compensation and/or interest on late payments to be incurred for the public purse.**

**Please provide the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid within 30 days for the period starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to the date of this request (20<sup>th</sup> June 2025):**

- 1) Supplier Name.**
- 2) Invoice Date.**
- 3) Gross Invoice Value.**
- 4) Payment Date.**
- 5) Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any).**

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 25-463 Late payment fees' and note that we are applying Section 43(2) to the Supplier name and the breakdown of the invoice value'.

**Section 17 Notice of Refusal**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

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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.

We have concluded that sharing commercials could disadvantage the incumbent supplier against their competitors. The information could provide competitors with the suppliers pricing, which could result in these suppliers obtaining a competitive advantage which could result in the Trust not obtaining best value for money.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

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)