

FOI REF: 25/427

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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East Sussex
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19th August 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500

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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:

1. Current logistics and supply chain model

- a. **How much space (in sq ft) does your organisation currently use for inventory storage of medical devices and consumables (please indicate whether this is on-site or off-site)?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record how much space the Trust has for inventory storage of medical devices and consumables. Most items, excluding those housed in the central Stores, are distributed across multiple wards and various sites. Determining the total space they occupy is not feasible with accuracy, therefore we do not hold this information.

- b. **Does your organisation make use of consolidated logistics hubs or off-site storage facilities for medical devices and/or consumables?**

No.

- c. **Is this done in partnership with other NHS organisations?**

Not applicable.

- i. **If so, does your organisation run this or is it run by another organisation?**

Not applicable.

- ii. **If so, which organisation?**

Not applicable.

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- d. **How much does your organisation spend on medical devices and consumables through NHS Supply Chain?**

Clarification was sought with regard to the time period you require, and confirmation was received that you are referring to the last full financial year where data is available, i.e. 2024/25, or 2023/24.

- i. **What is this spend as a proportion of your organisation's total spend on medical devices and consumables?**

Clarification was sought and received as above.

The Trust does not centrally record the information requested above. Due to the absence of detailed classification within procurement records, spend pertaining specifically to medical devices and consumables cannot be extracted with accuracy from existing datasets. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual evaluation of the data to distinguish expenditures unrelated to medical devices and consumables. Identifying spend outside the scope of medical devices and consumables would involve a detailed manual review which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

2. **Delivery and stock management**

- a. **What systems (if any) does your Trust use to manage inventory and logistics for medical devices and consumables?**

EDC Gold & EDC (NHS FOC system).

- b. **Are these systems integrated with NHS Supply Chain or other regional or national systems?**

EDC is integrated with NHS Supply Chain.

3. Strategic priorities

- a. Is your Trust actively exploring or piloting any new logistics models, technologies, or partnerships to improve supply chain efficiency? If so, please give any details.

No.

- b. Would your organisation be open to participating in a pilot of an alternative logistics model (i.e. one offering consolidated supply, enhanced stock visibility, and just-in-time delivery capabilities)?

No, as stated in Q2a we use the FOC NHS Systems (EDC & EDC Gold).

4. Additional

- a. Who in your organisation is responsible for logistics and supply chain operations? Please provide name and contact details where possible.

Angela Alletson
Head of Procurement
esht.procurement@nhs.net

- b. Who in your organisation is responsible for procurement decision-making relating to medical technology and consumable supplies? Please provide name and contact details where possible.

Angela Alletson
Head of Procurement
esht.procurement@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