

FOI REF: 25/574

2nd September 2025

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: 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 request is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and concerns your use of external or independent investigators in internal staff-related matters such as grievances, disciplinary cases, or bullying/harassment investigations.

****Please do not include clinical or patient safety investigations.****

The financial year is from 1 April to 31 March. For each of the financial years:

2022/23

2023/24

2024/25

Please provide one row per investigation showing:

- 1. Financial year**
- 2. Investigator cost (£)**
- 3. Hours charged (if available)**
- 4. Investigator type:**
 - Independent freelancer**
 - Specialist workplace investigation firm**
 - NHS Employers or similar body**
 - Solicitor/law firm**
 - Other (please specify)**

Please see the table below for the information requested above, broken down by year:

Year	Cost (£)	Hours	Investigator type
2022/23	28,644	We do not hold this information	Freelance
2023/24	29,274	We do not hold this information	Freelance
2024/25	63,001	We do not hold this information	Freelance

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I can confirm that we hold this information broken down per investigation, but it is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Personal Information of third parties. This is because this information may allow the identification of individual staff members due to the small number and disclosure would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act.

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

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