

FOI REF: 25/679

8<sup>th</sup> October 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:

**I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the workforce supporting head and neck cancer services within your Cancer Alliance.**

**1. The number of individuals currently working within your Alliance in the following roles, where they are involved in the care of patients with head and neck cancer:**

**- Consultant Clinical Oncologists**

Not applicable, all Oncology staff are employed by University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UHSx).

**- Consultant Medical Oncologists**

Not applicable, all Oncology staff are employed by UHSx.

**- Head and Neck Surgeons (ENT, OMFS and plastic surgeons specialising in head and neck)**

One Oral Maxillofacial Head and Neck Surgeon (OMFS) is employed by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) and works on an SLA for UHSx, One OMFS doing locum work for ESHT, no ENT cross site working.

**- Consultant Radiologists (with head and neck subspecialty, if available)**

ESHT have two Radiologists who are Head and Neck specialists, but they also work within other specialties.

- **Therapeutic Radiographers**

Not applicable, all Radiotherapy staff are employed by UHSx, not by ESHT.

- **Diagnostic Radiographers**

We have no specific Radiographers working within Head and Neck; therefore, we do not hold this information.

- **Pathologists**

Not applicable, some work is done by UHSx pathologist working within Head and Neck.

- **Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs)**

The staffing in ESHT Speech and Language therapy dedicated to Head and Neck cancer is as follows:

0.6WTE B8a  
1.0WTE B7  
0.6WTE B6

All of the above posts are however, split over Head and Neck cancer and non-oncology ENT.

- **Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) for Head and Neck Cancer**

2.0 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE), which includes 1.0 WTE on fixed term post (extended to December 2025).

- **Dietitians (working with head and neck cancer patients)**

There are currently two dietitians working with head and neck patients within ESHT: one Band 8a and one Band 6 (covering maternity leave for a Band 7). These patients are part of a generic caseload of all tumour groups managed by the Oncology Dietetics team.

- **Psychologists or Counsellors (working with head and neck cancer patients)**

ESHT have a team of volunteer counsellors working with Cancer patients (not specifically Head and Neck Cancer patients), we also have 1.0 WTE Counselling Lead employed by the Trust. Specialist Psychological support would be provided by UHSx, as they are the specialist treatment centre.

- **Maxillofacial Prosthetists or Technologists**

This service would be provided by Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, East Grinstead, as they are the specialist treatment centre, minority at UHSx - St. Richard's Hospital, West Chichester.

- **MDT Coordinators**

ESHT have two Patient Pathway Co-ordinators who co-ordinate the diagnostic phase of Head and Neck Cancer patients' care. They work within Cancer Services and co-ordinate other tumour sites as well as Head and Neck.

**2. For each of the above roles, if possible, please also include:**

- **Number of Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) staff**

Please refer to question 1.

- **Number of current vacancies (headcount and WTE)**

We have no vacancies within the staffing cohort which are employed by ESHT.

- **Any known workforce planning or succession data, including anticipated retirements within the next 5 years**

None anticipated.

**3. If applicable, please also indicate:**

- **The hospitals or NHS Trusts where head and neck cancer services are provided within your Alliance**

Head and Neck Surgery and Radiotherapy are provided at the Royal Sussex County Hospital by UHSx.

- **Whether these services are centralised or distributed across multiple MDTs**

These services are central specialised MDT hosted by UHSx.

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)