



East Sussex Healthcare

NHS Trust

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

FOI REF: 25/738

14th October 2025

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:

Please provide the number of patients absconding from secure mental health wards for the years:

- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

This should include incidents in which patients vanish from units or fail to return from authorised periods of leave.

Please note that East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not provide a Mental Health Service. This service is provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust who are the Mental Health Trust for this area, their Freedom of Information email address is:-

spft.foi@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.

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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