

FOI REF: 25/736

6th November 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:

I would like to request the following information regarding Clinical Biochemistry / Chemical Pathology and / or Toxicology workload within the Trust.

- 1) Could you please provide the estimated population served by your trust or health board.**

We do not hold this information. Information regarding the local population can be found on East Sussex County Council's website via the following link:

[East Sussex in Figures – Data Observatory – Welcome to East Sussex in Figures](#)

- 2) Which description best fits your organisation? e.g., Pharmaceutical, Environmental, Forensic, Hospital & poison control centre, Government, Academic & research institute, contract research org. Private chemical/Agrochemical company.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust is an integrated Trust providing acute and community services. The Trust provides services from two acute hospital sites at Eastbourne District General Hospital and Conquest Hospital and four community sites at Bexhill Hospital, Bexhill Community Diagnostic Centre, Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital and Uckfield Community Hospital.

We also provide services at a number of other clinics, health centres and hospitals.

Further information can be found on the Trust's website via the following link:

[Our locations – East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust](#)

Cont.../

- 3) **If your Trust service and/or hospital is in England, please list the network you are involved with.**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by the following link:

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust](#)

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

Question 4-6 is whether you provide Clinical Biochemistry services:

- 4) **Approximately how many samples has your department received in the last 6 years?**

[Please see the attached document.](#)

- 5) **Is your trust responsible and/or do they cover any other laboratory? If so, how many laboratories?**

[Not applicable.](#)

- 6) **Approximately what percentage does your department spend on the following work areas per week?**

[We do not hold this information.](#)

Question 7-11 is whether you provide Toxicology services:

- 7) **Which tests/samples do you receive and/or perform?**
- 8) **Approximately how many samples has your department received in the last 6 years?**
- 9) **Do any of your Toxicologists provide direct inpatient care?**
- 10) **Approximately how many tests have been carried out by your department in the last 6 years?**
- 11) **If your Trust service and/or hospital is in England, please list the network you are involved with.**

[Not applicable to ESH T as we do not provide a Toxicology service.](#)

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

Clinical Biochemistry and Toxicology FOI

As part of data collection, we are also collecting workload that your trust or group practice received in the last 6 years.

We ask that 1 representative or head per service complete the survey to ensure consistency.

#	Question	Response
1	Could you please provide the estimated population served by your trust or health board	Please refer to letter. E.g. 12,000
2	Which description best fits your organisation?	Drop down list Please refer to letter.
3	If your Trust service and/or hospital is in England, please list the network are you involved with? If none, put 'n/a'	Please refer to letter. Text

Clinical Biochemistry - This section is for Clinical Biochemistry only

If your Trust, health board or organisations does not provide Clinical Biochemistry service, please disregard this section.

4	Approximately how many samples has your department received in the last 6 years?	<table><thead><tr><th>2018-2019</th><th>2019-2020</th><th>2020-2021</th><th>2021-2022</th><th>2022-2023</th><th>2023-2024</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>660,344</td><td>618,814</td><td>551,384</td><td>677,456</td><td>741,536</td><td>790,706</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> E.g. 12	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	660,344	618,814	551,384	677,456	741,536	790,706						
2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024															
660,344	618,814	551,384	677,456	741,536	790,706															

Please Note: We do not keep records on the exact number of samples received through our laboratory. We have counted requests above; requests would have had at least one sample but could have had many more than one. Looking at bottles used vs requests we estimate around 3.5 samples per request

Please Note: we are unable to provide details on numbers of samples referred. As above we do not keep records of the number of samples received; for referred tests we may also aliquot samples and send the same sample for multiple tests, therefore there is not a way to calculate the number of samples sent effectively

5	Is your trust responsible and/or do they cover any other laboratory, if so, how many laboratories? If this is not applicable to you, please put "N/A"	Not applicable. E.g. 12 or N/A
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6	Approximately what percentage does your department spend on the following work areas per week? : Percentage for all relevant work areas for your department should total to 100%
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Laboratory testing i.e. Diagnostic and quality control
Laboratory management i.e. personnel issues
Patient interaction (indirect)
Data interpretation i.e. results analysis, clinical decision support

We do not hold this information.	E.g. 12.5%
	E.g. 12.5%
	E.g. 12.5%
	E.g. 12.5%

Research and development i.e. Clinical research and evidence review
 Teaching (University/hospital training)
 Consultation and advisory roles i.e. medical consultation
 Regulatory and ethical compliance
 Other work areas not listed... (include percentage)

E.g. 12.5%
 E.g. 12.5%
 E.g. 12.5%
 E.g. 12.5%

Toxicology - This section is for Toxicology only

If your Trust, health board or organisations does not provide Toxicology services, please disregard this section.

Not applicable to East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

7 Which tests/samples do you receive and/or perform, select all that apply:

- In Vitro Tests (Test Tube/Cell-Based) ☐
 In Vivo Tests (Animal Studies) ☐
 Analytical Chemistry Tests Human Biomonitoring (Clinical/Forensic) ☐
 Human Biomonitoring (Clinical/Forensic) ☐
 Molecular and Mechanistic Studies ☐

8 Approximately how many samples has your department received in the last 6 years?

Total number of samples received

Number of In Vitro Tests (Test Tube/Cell-Based), if applicable

Number of In Vivo Tests (Animal Studies), if applicable

Number of Analytical Chemistry Tests Human Biomonitoring (Clinical/Forensic), if applicable

Number of Molecular and Mechanistic Studies, if applicable

Other

Total number of samples referred

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024

E.g. 12,000

Drop down list

9 Do any of your Toxicologists provide direct inpatient care?

10 Approximately how many tests carried out by your department in the last 6 years?

Primary care

Secondary care

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024

E.g. 12,000