

FOI REF: 25/811

26th November 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:

Please provide information for the period 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2024 (inclusive) or the most recent complete year available.

- 1. Governance framework — The framework used for cybersecurity governance (e.g. NCSC CAF, DSPT, ISO 27001) and the year of its latest board approval.**

[DSPT.](#)

- 2. Board review frequency — How often the board or an executive committee formally reviews cyber resilience or cybersecurity governance (e.g. annually, quarterly, ad hoc).**

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust receive a report on cybersecurity at the Audit Committee every six months.](#)

- 3. Most recent review — The title and month/year of the latest board or committee paper or report relating to cyber resilience (no internal findings required).**

[Audit committee, Cyber report, July 2025.](#)

- 4. Reporting line — The current reporting structure for cybersecurity governance (e.g. CISO → CIO → Board).**

[Cyber Lead/Head Digital → Director of Digital/CIO → Board.](#)

- 5. External assurance — Whether the Trust has undergone external assurance such as CAF self-assessment, DSPT validation, independent audit, or security testing (e.g. penetration test / red-team). If so, please indicate only the type and frequency, not the scope or results.**

[Yes, DSPT, annually.](#)

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6. Concurrent improvement programmes — Approximate number of cybersecurity-related improvement programmes or initiatives active concurrently in a typical year (2018–2024) and trend (increasing/decreasing/stable).

There are improvement programmes.

Under FOIA Section 31(3) the Trust neither confirm nor deny it holds the information requested in respect of the number of cybersecurity-related improvement programmes or initiatives and is applying a Section 31(1)(a) exemption because disclosure of this information under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

The Trust considers that the release of this information would provide information about the NHS Trust's information security systems and its resilience to cyber-attacks which would make the Trust more vulnerable to crime.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in preventing the prejudice outweighs the public interest in disclosure due to the significant impact a cyber-attack can have on staff, patients and the wider community.

7. Internal coordination — Whether a steering group, programme office, or committee coordinates concurrent cybersecurity initiatives within the Trust, and its reporting level (executive/board).

Yes, we have a steering group and this reports into a second digital steering group and Audit committee and Board level.

8. Cross-Trust coordination — Whether the Trust participates in structured coordination or information-sharing mechanisms with other NHS Trusts or regional bodies on cyber-resilience governance (e.g. ICS cyber networks), and at what level (regional/national).

Yes.

9. Board learning — Whether board-level training sessions or workshops on cyber resilience have been held since 2018, and in which years.

No.

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