

FOI REF: 25/832

9th December 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:

I would be most grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions regarding your Trust's children's continence and/or bladder and bowel services. We kindly request responses to the following questions:

- 1. Does your Trust currently provide a children's continence and/or bladder and bowel service for individuals aged 0–19 years?**

Yes.

If yes, please provide:

- a. The name of the service (if applicable).**

Children's Bladder and Bowel Service.

- b. The age range it covers.**

4-16 years; however the Service keeps the complex children during transition for products until they are 19 years old.

- c. The staff roles or disciplines included in the service (e.g. nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist).**

Nurses and Continence Advisor / Nursery Nurse.

- d. The number of staff in each role, expressed as whole-time equivalent (WTE).**

Currently: B7 0.23
 B6 1full-time
 B4 1full-time

Funded appropriately against Agenda for Change rates.

- e. The service's referral pathway (e.g. GP, school nurse, self-referral).

School nurse, consultants and GP – only once there is evidence of Tier 1 support and reg flags have been ruled out.

2. Has your Trust closed, reduced, or restructured any part of its children's continence and/or bladder and bowel service within the past three years (since October 2022)?

Yes.

If yes, please provide:

- a. The date of closure or reduction.

Over 2024 – 2025.

- b. brief description of what changed (e.g. staffing, eligibility criteria, service capacity).

The Trust re-looked at the service offer and brought the service into line with this. The Trust also looked at recruitment issues within the service.

3. How many children and young people aged 0–19 are currently being supported by your adult continence service for pad provision? Please provide the number of individuals currently recorded in this category.

0, as these will all be under Paediatrics.

4. What is the average waiting time (in weeks) for an initial assessment on the children's continence service? Please provide the current number of children and young people (aged 0–19) on the waiting list for this service.

The current waiting time for new referrals is 10 weeks; this is due to running some catch-up follow-up clinics instead of new clinics, as well as taking into account staff annual leave and bank holidays. There are 25 children on this list, although they have all been allocated appointments.

5. Does your Trust follow the relevant NICE guidelines for continence care and management? Please indicate Yes or No for each

- Children's Continence Commissioning Guide: A handbook for the commissioning and running of children's community continence services.

Yes.

- Guidance for the provision of continence containment products to children and young people – A consensus document.

Yes.

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