

FOI REF: 25/847

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East Sussex
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1st December 2025

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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:

Following the response from the ICB, I would like to make the following FOI request to the Trusts within the ICB:

- 1. The total amount spent by your Trust on medical treatment or corrective surgery for patients who experienced complications following cosmetic procedures undertaken abroad. Please provide this information for the most recent five financial years.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not record whether treatment of a patient is as a result of complications arising from cosmetic surgery procedures performed overseas. There is no subject code for this type of procedure to be reported on within our Trust systems. Any treatment would be recorded as the presenting symptom such as infection, bruising or swelling for example. To enable the Trust to provide the information requested would require a manual review of the medical notes of every individual that attended A&E from April 2020 to March 2025 with any number of associated conditions. As this would require the review of hundreds of thousands of patient records this would take significantly over 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

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2. The data to be broken down by type of procedure, for example:

- o Cosmetic dental surgery**
- o Hair transplants**
- o Liposuction**
- o Injectable cosmetic treatments**
- o Other cosmetic procedures (please specify if applicable)**

Section 12(1) applied, please see Q1.

3. If a breakdown by procedure is not available, please provide the total annual expenditure on corrective treatment for complications arising from cosmetic surgery performed abroad.

The Trust does not hold the cost data for treating complications from overseas surgeries.

4. Copies of any internal reports, briefing papers, or formal meeting minutes produced or received by the Trust in the past two years that discuss the impact on NHS services of patients requiring corrective treatment following complications from cosmetic procedures undertaken abroad.

No papers have been presented at Trust meetings, or have been received by the Trust, that discuss patients requiring corrective treatment following complications from cosmetic procedures undertaken abroad in the last two years.

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