



East Sussex Healthcare

NHS Trust

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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East Sussex
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FOI REF: 25/915

31st December 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 request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding temporary worker usage for communications roles.

Definition of Scope: For the purposes of this request, "communications" refers to any function or team managed, hosted, or funded through the Trust's structures (including work performed for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), regional partnerships, or shared service models) that encompasses:

Internal or external communications functions;

Media relations or the Press Office;

Social media management and digital content;

Marketing and brand management (where these sit within the communications structure).

Definition of Personnel: For the purposes of this request, the term "agency" refers to all temporary or non-permanent staff, including those engaged via an external recruitment agency, a Managed Service Provider (MSP), or the Trust's internal "Staff Bank" where such an arrangement exists.

Timing and Cooperation: To ensure the data provided is accurate and aligned with your internal reporting cycles, I am happy to allow the necessary time for your teams to complete the December 2025 (Month 9) month-end close before running these reports. I recognise that the holiday period may impact administrative capacity and I seek a collaborative approach to ensure the provision of a complete and reconciled dataset.

Please provide the following data:

1. 2025/26 Actuals and Outturn Forecast

- 1a. Provide the total number of days a temporary worker was employed via an agency or bank for the communications roles defined above from 1 April 2025 to the end of the December 2025 (Month 9) reporting period. (If data is only held in hours, please provide the total hours and specify the standard working day length).**

We have not used any bank or agency staff for internal or external communications work.

- 1b. Provide the current projected year-end outturn for the total number of agency/bank days for these roles for the full 2025/26 financial year (ending 31 March 2026).**

Not applicable.

- 1c Provide a breakdown of these days by Agenda for Change (AfC) Band or job title.**

Not applicable.

2. 2026/27 Planned Requirements

- 2a. Provide the total number of days currently budgeted or forecasted for agency-provided or bank communications staff for the 2026/27 financial year.**

None planned.

- 2b. Funding and Management Qualifier: This request explicitly includes all agency and bank requirements managed or funded through the Trust, regardless of whether the end-user is the Trust itself, an ICB, or a regional partnership.**

None planned.

- 2c. Financial Qualifier: Note that I am requesting the currently held financial forecasts and draft budget allocations for 2026/27 as they exist at the time of this request. If these forecasts do not yet segment requirements by specific band, please provide the overall forecasted budget for temporary staffing within the communications function.**

None planned.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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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