

FOI REF: 25/917

21st January 2026

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:

For the most recent three financial years for which data is held, please provide:

- 1) The number of patients recorded by the Trust as receiving end of life or palliative care whose housing was documented by Trust staff as:**
 - a) Unsafe or unfit for habitation.**
 - b) Affected by damp, mould, overcrowding or serious disrepair.**
 - c) Temporary accommodation or homelessness.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the housing situation or housing conditions of patients. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of the records of all patients receiving end of life or palliative care which we estimate would take significantly in excess of 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 number of cases where housing conditions were recorded as contributing to:

- a) Delayed discharge from hospital.**
- b) An inability to provide safe end of life care at home.**

[Please see the response to question 1.](#)

3) The number of patients receiving end of life or palliative care who died in hospital where housing conditions were noted as a factor in discharge planning or care decisions.

If question 3 cannot be answered in this form, please instead provide:

- The number of patients receiving end of life or palliative care who died in hospital following a delayed discharge, where housing conditions were noted as a contributing factor.**
- If the information is held in a different format or only partially held, please provide what is available.**

[Please see the response to question 1.](#)

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