

FOI REF: 25/928

30th January 2026

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.

Subsequent to our response to your FOI request's 25/463 and 25/903, we received the following further request. Our response is set out below.

Can you please confirm which of the following are held in the system and can be reported on, and which would require manual review:

a. Invoice received date

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) does not hold this information; it records invoices by the date of the invoice.

b. Invoice due date

When ESHT records invoices, the credit terms for payment default to 26 days in our finance systems irrespective of the credit terms for the supplier, or immediate payment where we are required to pay an invoice urgently. Therefore, the invoice due date in our finance systems is not necessarily a reflection of individual supplier credit terms.

To report on invoice due dates, as we record them for each late payment in the time period stipulated in the original FOI, would require the extraction of data from multiple finance systems, in multiple report types, and to then be centralised in one report, which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of 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.

c. Invoice approved date

ESHT takes the receipt of a supply as approval to pay an invoice and therefore does not record an invoice approved date.

d. Invoice payment terms

The invoice payment terms set by each supplier will differ.

To review the invoice payment terms for each supplier in receipt of a late payment would require a manual review of supplier records which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request. Please refer to the application of Section 12(1) in our response to (b) above.

e. Invoice query or dispute flag (e.g. Y/N)

The finance system used by ESHT offers the ability to flag invoices as in query.

To report on whether an invoice query flag was applied to any late payment in the time period stipulated in the original FOI would require the extraction of data from multiple finance systems, in multiple report types, and to then be centralised in one report, which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request. Please refer to the application of Section 12(1) in our response to (b) above.

f. Reason for invoice query, dispute, or delay (if held)

If a reason is recorded for invoice query, dispute or delay, this is recorded as a diary note in our finance systems.

To report on whether a reason was recorded against any late payment in the time period stipulated in the original FOI would require the extraction of data from multiple finance systems, in multiple report types, and to then be centralised in one report, which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request. Please refer to the application of Section 12(1) in our response to (b) above.

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