

FOI REF: 26/064

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

12th February 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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following recorded information held by the Trust regarding balance/vestibular services.

For the purposes of this request, “audiologist” includes clinical scientists, healthcare scientists, and practitioners working in audiology at any grade (including those specialising in balance/vestibular assessment).

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's audiology department does not currently offer a vestibular diagnostics or rehab service. These patients are referred to University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UHSx) for Vestibular service.

Please contact UHSx for the information requested, contact details as follows:

Email uhsussex.foi@nhs.net

1. Balance / vestibular service provision

- a) How many balance or vestibular clinics does the Trust currently operate within the audiology department alone and within the ENT department
- b) Where balance/vestibular assessments are provided within a wider service rather than via a standalone clinic, please indicate this.

Not applicable, please see above.

2. Employment of audiologists

- a) How many audiologists are currently employed by the Trust that are active in offering vestibular assessment at the date of this request (headcount and FTE, if held)?
- b) How many audiologists are currently employed by the Trust that are active in offering vestibular rehabilitation at the date of this request (headcount and FTE, if held)?

Not applicable, please refer to page 1.

3. Workforce needs – current

Does the Trust hold assessment, workforce plan, or internal analysis relating to the number of audiologists required to meet current service demand?

If so, please provide that assessment.

Not applicable, please refer to page 1.

4. Workforce needs – future

Does the Trust hold any assessment, workforce plan, or projection relating to future audiology workforce needs? for example, 3 years, 5 years, or 10 years).

If so, please provide that/those assessments.

We do not hold this information. this would be dependant on commissioning. Please contact NHS Sussex for information regarding future needs and long-term planning, contact details as follows:

Email: sxicb.foi@nhs.net

5. Long-term planning

Does the Trust hold any assessment or modelling of audiology (including balance/vestibular) workforce or service needs looking ahead 10 years or more?

If so, please provide that/those assessments.

Please refer to question 4 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