

6th March 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the number of registered nurses on long-term sick leave.

Please provide the following information, using the most recent data available, as well as the same information for the equivalent, or nearest, date in 2021 and 2016.

- 1. The total number of all registered nurses employed by the trust or health board at Agenda for Change Band 5 and above. [E.g. 02/02/2026 - 1,506; 02/02/2021 - 1,321; 02/02/2016 - 1,234]**

Please see the table below for the number of registered nurses employed by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) for the periods requested:

Date	Number
01/02/2016	1,947
01/02/2021	2,188
01/02/2026	2,444

- 2. Of these registered nurses (Band 5 and above), how many are/were absent from work on long-term sick leave, which is defined as sickness absence lasting more than 28 consecutive calendar days. [E.g. 02/02/2026 - 30; 02/02/2021 - 12; 02/02/2016 - 25]**

Please see the table below for the number of registered nurses that are/were absent from work on long-term sick leave, for the periods requested:

Date	Number
01/02/2016	89
01/02/2021	107
01/02/2026	111

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm