

FOI Ref: 26/136

18th March 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital
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Eastbourne
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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 implementation and evaluation of Family Integrated Care (FICare) within your neonatal services.

- 1. Confirmation of whether Family Integrated Care (FICare) is currently implemented in your neonatal unit(s), and if so, the date of initial implementation.**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by searching 'Family' via the following link:

<https://www.esht.nhs.uk/about-us/contact-us/freedom-of-information/foi-disclosure-log/>

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

- 2. Copies of any internal policies, protocols, or guidance documents relating to FICare.**

Section 21 applied, please see above.

- 3. Details of any staff training programmes or materials used to support FICare delivery.**

Section 21 applied, please see above.

- 4. Details of any staff training programmes or materials used to support FICare delivery relating to older siblings.**

Section 21 applied, please see above.

5. **Any audit reports, evaluations, or outcome data relating to the effectiveness or impact of FICare on neonatal care or family experience.**

Section 21 applied, please refer to question 1.

6. **If FICare is not currently implemented, please indicate whether there are plans or discussions underway to introduce it.**

Section 21 applied, please refer to question 1.

In addition (and if relevant), please could the Trust provide information on its policies or regulations regarding parental and sibling access to babies receiving neonatal care:

7. **Are both parents and siblings permitted to spend time with babies in neonatal care units?**

Section 21 applied, please refer to question 1.

8. **Are there any time restrictions or limitations on how long parents or siblings may spend with babies in neonatal care?**

Section 21 applied, please refer to question 1.

9. **Does the Trust have any policies to ensure that babies from multiple births (e.g. twins, triplets) receive equal parental contact time compared to singleton babies?**

Section 21 applied, please refer to question 1.

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