

FOI Ref: 26/156

17th March 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
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 make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act about agency costs for registered nurse shifts paid out by your organisation over the past two years.

- 1) What was the single highest amount your trust paid to an agency for any registered nurse shift for band 5 or above in the current financial year [i.e. April 2025-26]**
 - i. Could you please provide the same information for the preceding year [i.e. April 2024-25]**
 - ii. Please outline or name the specialist area this cost was for, if relevant, for example paediatrics, frailty ward, emergency care, ITU etc.**
 - iii. Please outline which nursing band (i.e. band 5, band 6 etc.) this cost was for**
 - iv. Please include the length of the shift this was paid for**

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to your request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

We have concluded that information broken down to the level requested could cause harm to the Trust and our suppliers. This could lead to the Trust receiving increased charges and therefore not gaining best value for money.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

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