

FOI Ref: 26/165

20th 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:

Please could you provide me with information for each of the calendar years 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021:

- 1. How many times an A&E patient has been placed in a corridor or “temporary escalation space”?**
- 2. How many waited longer than 24 hours after that "decision to admit" to get a bed in a ward?**
- 3. How many waited longer than 36 hours? How many of them waited longer than 48 hours?**

Please specify the types of non-clinical areas patients are treated (corridors, converted cupboards, others)

Please see the attached document - ‘FOI 26-165 Corridor Care’, for the number of patients who were placed in a corridor or temporary escalation space, from mid-October 2024 and 2025, and note the following:

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust did not start centrally recording if a patient was being treated in a corridor area until mid-October 2024. The Emergency Department at Conquest Hospital started to record patients treated in non-clinical area on the clinical System from 15th October 2024 and Eastbourne District General Hospital Emergency Department from 28th October 2024.

To establish if the Trust are able to provide this information prior to October 2024 would require a manual review of all patients notes who attended the Emergency Departments for the time period requested, to establish if we recorded where the patients were treated, 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.

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

FOI 26/165 - East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Q1)

The table below shows the number of patients placed in a corridor or temporary escalation space. We are unable to determine whether a patient was placed there more than once during the same attendance, as the data is not reliable enough to identify repeated placements

Year	No Pat
2024	1316
2025	9072
Grand Total	10388

Q2)-Q3)

The data shown in the below table does not indicate that the patient remained in the corridor or temporary escalation space for the entire duration. They may have been moved from the temporary escalation space to another area or bed during that time.

Time is measured from decision to admit to be admitted

Year	Sum of >24hr	Sum of >36hr	Sum of >48hr
2024	4	0	0
2025	49	1	0
Grand Total	53	1	0

The type of non-clinical area where the patients are treated are corridors