

FOI Ref: 26/181

10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital  
Kings Drive  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://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 can you tell me, in the financial year 2024-2025:**

- 1. How many LLPs did the trust have contracts with to provide medical services?**
- 2. How much did the trust spend on these contracts, in total?**
- 3. How many of these LLPs were owned in full, or in part, by senior doctors at the trust?**
- 4. How much did the trust spend specifically on the LLPs, owned in full or in part, by senior doctors at the trust?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) does not centrally record the information requested above. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require, firstly, a manual analysis of 90,732 invoices received from 2,241 non-NHS Suppliers, between April 2024 and March 2025, to identify which invoices relate to medical services which we estimate would take approximately 250 hours. Once this manual analysis has been completed a further manual analysis would be required to identify which LLP or Ltd company suppliers, providing medical services, are owned in full or in part, by senior doctors working at ESHT. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to 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](mailto: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