

FOI Ref: 26/186

21st April 2026

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Tel: 0300 131 4500
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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 would like to request information relating to incidents affecting the storage of blood and bone marrow within your Trust.

For the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025 (or the most recent 3 complete years for which data is available), please provide the following information.

1. Blood:

The total number of units of blood disposed of as a result of failures relating to storage equipment or monitoring systems, including incidents recorded as:

- **blood refrigerator or storage unit failure**
- **temperature monitoring or alarm failure**
- **fridge/freezer alarm malfunction or failure to activate**
- **equipment malfunction affecting blood storage**
- **power failure affecting blood storage equipment**

Please also provide:

- **The number of incidents or occasions where such disposal occurred.**
- **The largest single incident during this period (i.e. the highest number of units disposed of in one event) and the number of units involved.**

[For the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2025, there were no units of blood disposed of as a result of failures relating to storage equipment or monitoring systems.](#)

2. Bone Marrow / Stem Cell Products:

The total number of bone marrow or stem cell units/products disposed of due to the same categories of equipment, monitoring, alarm, or power failures listed above.

[The Trust does not hold any bone marrow or stem cell units/products.](#)

Please also provide:

- **The number of incidents or occasions where this occurred.**
- **The largest single incident during this period and the number of units involved.**

Not applicable.

3. Operational Impact:

Where recorded, please provide:

- **The number of surgical operations or procedures cancelled or postponed as a direct result of these incidents.**

Not applicable.

4. Monitoring and Detection (if recorded):

Where this information is recorded, please provide for the largest incident identified above:

- **Whether the issue was identified automatically by an alarm or monitoring system, or identified manually by staff.**

Not applicable.

- **The approximate duration of the temperature excursion or equipment failure before it was detected, if recorded.**

Not applicable.

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