

22nd April 2026

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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:

- 1. How many patients under the age of 18 presented at A+E in your trust with mental ill health (psychiatric, psychological, and/or behavioural disturbances/changes) as the primary issue each calendar year between and including 2019 to 2025? Please provide year by year data between and including 2019 to 2025.**

Please refer to the table below for the number of patients under the age of 18 that presented at the A&E Departments provided by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust with mental ill health as the primary issue:

Year	Number of Under 18 Mental Health Attendances
2025	725
2024	633
2023	654
2022	755
2021	585

Please note that the electronic records system used by our A&E Departments to record patient attendances changed in mid-December 2020, and therefore we cannot access the requested data for 2019 and 2020.

- 2. How many patients identified in question 1 waited more than 12 hours in A+E for transfer to a mental health ward or unit after a decision to admit? Please provide year by year data between and including 2019 to 2025.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the length of time a patient waited in A&E for transfer to a mental health unit. To enable the Trust to establish if we can provide this information would require a manual review of patients' notes which we estimate would take 559 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.

- 3. How many patients identified in question 1 waited more than 48 hours in A+E for transfer to a mental health ward or unit after a decision to admit? Please provide year by year data between and including 2019 to 2025.**

Section 12(1) applied, please refer to question 2.

- 4. How many patients identified in question 1 waited more than 72 hours in A+E for transfer to a mental health ward or unit after a decision to admit? Please provide year by year data between and including 2019 to 2025.**

Section 12(1) applied, please refer to question 2.

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