

FOI REF: 26/231

23rd April 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 conducting a national benchmarking exercise on NHS community dietetic services in England and would be grateful if you could provide the following information. Please use figures from the most recent completed financial year for which data are held - 2024/25 if available, otherwise 2023/24.

- 1) What was the total annual spend or budget for your community dietetic service in the reporting year? Please state whether this is a budgeted or actual figure, and confirm which financial year it relates to.**

2024/25 Budget - £1,107,757

2024/25 Spend – £1,113,833

- 2) How many whole-time equivalent (WTE) dietetic posts were funded within the community dietetic service in that year?**

21.75 WTE budgeted as at 31st March 2025.

- 3) How many of those funded posts were filled? Please provide either the filled WTE as at 31 March of the reporting year, or the average filled WTE across the year — whichever is more readily available.**

20.25 WTE in post as at 31st March 2025.

- 4) How many completed patient contacts did the community dietetic service deliver during the reporting year? Please exclude did-not-attends (DNAs) and cancellations.**

There were 3,890 Attended Community Appointments.

- 5) Of those completed contacts, how many were new patient contacts and how many were follow-up contacts?**

There were 1,049 new attended Community appointments and 2,841 follow up attended appointments.

- 6) **Do the figures provided in questions 2–5 relate to community dietetic services only, or do they also include acute, inpatient, or outpatient dietetic activity? Please confirm.**

Yes, the figures relate to the community dietetic service only.

- 7) **What was the most recent Friends and Family Test (FFT) percentage recommended score for the community dietetic service, if this is recorded and held? If FFT data are not available for this service, please state this.**

NHS England altered the FFT in December 2020 to remove any reference to “recommending” a service and replaced it by asking patients to rate their “experience” of the service instead. A score of 5 (Very Good) or 4 (Good) counts as part of the service’s positive response score. The FFT positive response score for Community Dietetics for the period 23/03/26 to 22/04/26 is showing as 92.42% - so 92.42% of all respondents in the time period stated scored Community Dietetics a 5 (Very Good) or 4 (Good).

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