

14th April 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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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 am writing regarding the Cath Labs at Eastbourne DGH and Hastings Conquest Hospital following the changes to Cardiac Care at the Trust.

'Questions raised to The Trust didn't seem to cover the Risk Factor of a Patients having Major Cardiac events in the community, How will the extra transport time to EDGH affect the Mortality numbers, or perhaps these don't matter.

I would also like you to answer the following:

1. At what capacity did the Conquest Cath Lab operate?

85% of current capacity.

2. At what capacity did the two Cath Labs at EDGH operate?

Across both labs, 75% of current capacity.

3. How many times did the labs break down at EDGH?

For the period March 2025 to March 2026:

Cath Lab 1 – three days for servicing and upgrades, and one day for breakdowns/faults.

Cath Lab 2 – four days for servicing and upgrades, and six days for breakdowns/faults.

4. How will the extra patients from Conquest affect the waiting lists at EDGH and how will the extra waiting times affect the Mortality Rates?

Since April 2025, the overall waiting times have been similar; 118 patients waiting in April 2025, and 68 in February 2026. The urgent cases that present to hospital are treated promptly with no significant delays, and therefore we would not expect a change in the mortality rate. Additionally, we are part of the national audit that monitors this externally.

Transport times for our high-risk patients remain as they were prior to the transformation; we operated an alternate week service, which resulted in patients travelling from the Hastings area to Eastbourne as is the current model. We have now moved to a weekly service, and therefore the morality rates will be unaffected.

5. When will Lab 3 be available?

It is anticipated that the installation of the Conquest lab on the EDGH site will take place in early 2027.

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

cc: Helena Dollimore MP, Labour and Co-operative Member of Parliament for Hastings, Rye and the villages.