

FOI Ref: 26/171

29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information held by your organisation regarding assurance processes for software-based data erasure of end-of-life IT equipment.**

- 1) **Whether your organisation's policies, contractual terms, or internal procedures require an explicit outcome-based warranty or guarantee that personal data on a specific storage device has been rendered irrecoverable as a final data state following software-based erasure.**

Current Policy does not state any contractual terms for an explicit outcome. All devices are encrypted and this is then classed as low risk for any device that is disposed of. We are required to follow the WEEE waste regulation and receive a certificate based on the collection of devices.

- 2) **Where software-based erasure of storage media is undertaken internally, what recorded evidential assurance is relied upon to conclude that the final data state of the specific storage device is irrecoverable, as distinct from confirmation that an erasure process was executed.**

Not applicable.

- 3) **Where software-based erasure is undertaken by a third-party provider:**
  - a. **Do the certificates or contractual documents held constitute an explicit outcome-based warranty or guarantee of irrecoverability for each specific storage device processed?**

Certificates show which device has been erased and outcome.

- b. **Beyond reliance on supplier accreditation or recognised standards including but not limited to ADISA certification, ISO accreditation, NIST alignment, HMG IA standards, NHS Digital guidance, or Data Security and Protection Toolkit assertions, and beyond confirmation that a wiping process was completed, does the organisation hold any recorded, device specific documentation evidencing independent verification, testing, or validation that the data on the storage media has been rendered irrecoverable in practice?**

Not applicable.

- 4) **If no explicit outcome-based warranty or device specific outcome evidence is held beyond certification, accreditation, or confirmation of process completion, please confirm what recorded form of evidential assurance is relied upon when concluding that personal data has been rendered irrecoverable.**

As per question 1.

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