

28th May 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:

Consultant Workforce & Job Plans

- 1. The number of consultants employed by the East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, broken down by specialty.**

Please see the attached document - "FOI 26-203" for the number of consultants employed by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT), broken down by specialty.

- 2. The number of consultants with an agreed job plan of:**

- a. 10 PAs**
- b. 8 - 9 PAs**
- c. 6 - 7 PAs**
- d. Fewer than 6 PAs**

Clarification was sought asking you to be more specific and confirmation was received as follows:

My intention is simply to group consultants by the number of PAs they hold. To remove any possible ambiguity:

- 9.0–9.9 PAs *fall within* Group A**
- 10.0–10.9 PAs *fall within* Group B**
- 11.0–11.9 PAs *fall within* Group C**
- 12.0+ PAs *fall within* Group D**

In response to your original question and subsequent clarification, please note the following based on all signed off Consultant job plans and the PA's as of 1st April 2026:

Fewer Than 6.0 PA's	15 Consultants
6.0 – 6.99 PA's	10 Consultants
7.0 – 7.99 PA's	12 Consultants
8.0 – 8.99 PA's	13 Consultants
9.0 – 9.99 PA's	19 Consultants
10.0 – 10.99 PA's	65 Consultants
11.0 – 11.99 PA's	75 Consultants
12.0 Or More PA's	42 Consultants

Private Practice Declarations

3. **The number of consultants who have formally declared private practice in accordance with Trust policy.**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by the following link:

[Staff-Declarations-of-Interest.pdf](#).

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

4. **Any internal audits, summaries, or reports relating to consultant private practice declarations or compliance.**

Section 21 applied, please refer to question 3 above.

NHS Session Delivery

5. **The total number of Direct Clinical Care (DCC) PAs planned vs delivered by consultants.**

Clarification was sought asking you to confirm the date range for questions 5, 6 and 7 and confirmation was received as follows:

Please provide the information for the most recent complete financial year for which data is held.

We do not record this information.

6. **The number of cancelled or unfulfilled consultant-led NHS sessions (clinics, theatre lists, ward rounds), broken down by specialty.**

Clarification was sought with regard to your definition of unfulfilled and confirmation was received as follows:

For clarity, by “unfulfilled [PAs]” I am referring to contracted NHS Programmed Activities that were not carried out, for any reason, and which were neither rescheduled nor replaced. In other words, these are sessions a consultant was contracted by the East Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust to deliver, but which did not take place and were not subsequently made up.

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-203' for the number of cancelled clinics.

Please note that ESHT does not centrally record the number of cancelled or unfulfilled consultant-led theatre list sessions. To enable the Trust to establish if they can provide this information there would need to be a data extraction of all clinical activity for the most recent complete financial year, that has an outcome code of cancelled or rescheduled, broken down by setting (theatres) where this is recorded. Once the data is

isolated, we would then need to manually review each of those patient records to establish if the session was consultant-led (versus a session suggestive of being consultant-led but filled by/staffed by another member of staff such as a Registrar), and validate the data to remove recording errors, which we estimate would take in excess of 18 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.

Please note that we do not record number of cancelled or unfulfilled consultant-led ward rounds, therefore we do not hold this information.

7. The number of cancelled sessions where the stated or recorded reason relates to private practice, if held.

We do not hold this information as there is no coding or description relating to cancelling a session due to private practice.

Policies & Governance

8. The Trust's current policy or guidance on consultants undertaking private practice alongside NHS duties.

The 'Code of Conduct for Private Practice' (78153 DoH Code of Conduct - nhsemployers.org) and the Terms and Conditions of Service outline the basis for the relationship between NHS and Private activity. This Code applies to all Consultant and SAS Medical Staff regardless of what contract they are on. For the 2003 consultant contract, please see Schedule 9 TCS. For SAS doctors please see Schedule 10 TCS. All regular private practice activity should be recorded in the job plan, whether conducted externally or internally.

ESHT accepts that it is entirely acceptable for individuals wish to undertake private practice. Private work may not be scheduled to take place in NHS contracted time, including SPA time, with the exception of emergencies as described in the code of conduct. Clarity is essential for all parties on when an individual is undertaking private practice as opposed to NHS work.

For more guidance and more information from the BMA on consultants and private practice, [Consultants and private practice \(bma.org.uk\)](http://bma.org.uk) and [78153-DoH-Code of Conduct Cov \(nhsemployers.org\)](http://78153-DoH-Code-of-Conduct-Cov).

9. Any monitoring or enforcement mechanisms used to ensure private practice does not conflict with NHS job plan commitments.

ESHT are confident that there are no overlaps between NHS and private work through our job planning policy. We would investigate any transgressions as and when they are reported.

Waiting Times

10. The average waiting times for consultant-led outpatient appointments and elective procedures, broken down by specialty.

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by the following links:

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust - My Planned Care NHS](#)

[Average wait for routine first Outpatient appointment – East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust](#)

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

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

FOI 26/203 - East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Number of Consultants

Specialty	Number of Consultants
Accident and Emergency	28
Acute Internal Medicine	2
Anaesthetics	44
Breast Surgery	4
Cardiology	15
Chemical Pathology	3
Clinical Radiology	34
Corporate	6
Dermatology	2
Elderly Care Medicine	13
Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus	6
Gastro-enterology	11
General Surgery	10
Haematology	5
Histopathology	7
Immunology	1
Medical Microbiology	2
Medical Microbiology and Virology	2
Medicine	14
Neurology	7
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	17
Ophthalmology	11
Oral and Maxillo-facial Surgery	3
Orthodontics	2
Otolaryngology	7
Paediatrics	24
Palliative Medicine	3
Respiratory Medicine	10
Rheumatology	4
Sleep Physiology	1
Stroke	4
Surgery	6
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	19
Urology	9
Grand Total	336

FOI 26/203 Consultant Programmed Activities, Private Practice Declarations

Amount of cancelled clinics with less than 6 weeks notice between April 2025 - March 2026:

Date	Specialty								
	ASSESSMENT	AUDIOLOGY	BREAST SURGERY	CARDIAC REHABILITATION SERVICE	CARDIOLOGY	CLINICAL ONCOLOGY	DIABETIC MEDICINE	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICE	
2025	11	1	7		2	21	3	5	12
Apr						5			1
May						2			
Jun	4		1			2	1		
Jul			1		1				
Aug			2			2			4
Sep	7	1					1		
Oct			1		1	1	1	1	
Nov						8		1	2
Dec			2			1		3	5
2026	1		3			15	5	1	9
Jan			1			9	5		8
Feb	1					5		1	1
Mar			2			1			
Grand Total	12	1	10		2	36	8	6	21

Date	EAR, NOSE AND THROAT	ENDOCRINOLOGY	GASTROENTEROLOGY	GENERAL SURGERY	GYNAECOLOGY	HAEMATOLOGY	MAXILLO-FACIAL SURGERY	MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
2025	11	13	16	270	21	1	10	1
Apr				2	2			
May		1		1	3			
Jun		4		2	3	1		
Jul		2	2	2	2		4	
Aug				3			1	
Sep	4	1	11	2	2		4	
Oct	2	4	3	108	4			1
Nov	3	1		146	3			
Dec	2			4	2		1	
2026	3	2	1	2	22		6	
Jan	1			1	5			
Feb	1	1			14		1	
Mar	1	1	1	1	3		5	
Grand Total	14	15	17	272	43	1	16	1

Date	MEDICINE FOR THE ELDERLY	NEUROLOGY	OPHTHALMOLOGY	ORTHODONTIC	PAEDIATRIC EPILEPSY	PAEDIATRICS	RESPIRATORY PHYSIOLOGY	RHEUMATOLOGY
2025		13	79	3	1	15	2	6
Apr			4			1		
May			8			1		
Jun		2	5		1	2		
Jul		1	7	2		6	2	1
Aug		5	9			2		
Sep			15	1		1		1
Oct		4	10			1		1
Nov		1	7					1
Dec			14			1		2
2026	2	3	33			4	1	
Jan			13				1	
Feb	2	1	13			2		
Mar		2	7			2		
Grand Total	2	16	112	3	1	19	3	6

Date	SLEEP MEDICINE SERVICE	STROKE MEDICINE	THORACIC MEDICINE	TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS PAEDIATRICS	TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS	UROLOGY	VASCULAR SURGERY	Grand Total	
2025	1	1	39		2	59	32	4	662
Apr			6			15	1		37
May			1			5	3	1	26
Jun						3	11		42
Jul			10			7	7		57
Aug		1	4			3	3		39
Sep	1		5			2	2		61
Oct			4		2	10	2	2	163
Nov			5			12	1		191
Dec			4			2	2	1	46
2026			3			6	4	2	128
Jan			1			1	1	2	49
Feb			2			2	1		48
Mar						3	2		31
Grand Total	1	1	42		2	65	36	6	790