

20th May 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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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:

1. Amputation numbers

Please provide the total number of amputations carried out by your Trust in each of the last three financial years:

2021/22

2022/23

2023/24

Please break this down into:

- **Major amputations (e.g. above or below knee, above or below elbow)**
- **Minor amputations (e.g. toes, partial foot, fingers)**

Please see the attached document - '[FOI 26-204 Amputation Data](#)', which provide the information requested above.

2. Cause of amputation (if recorded)

For the above, please provide a breakdown by primary cause where available, for example:

- **Diabetes-related**
- **Peripheral vascular disease**
- **Trauma**
- **Infection (including sepsis)**
- **Other**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) does not centrally record the causes for amputation surgery. However, we can confirm that procedures will be performed on adults where there are predisposing medical conditions, e.g. diabetes or for a trauma.

Vascular cases requiring amputation will normally be referred to University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust.

3. Referral to treatment times (limb-threatening conditions)

If recorded, please provide the average and/or median time (in hours or days) between:

- Patient presentation or referral, and
- Definitive treatment

For the following conditions:

- **Acute limb ischaemia**

Patients are referred to University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust for treatment of Acute Limb Ischaemia.

- **Severe diabetic foot infection**

We do not record this information. Diabetic feet infection is sometimes managed by Trauma and Orthopaedics or Vascular or by medicine and/or podiatry.

- **Compartment syndrome**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record patients with compartment syndrome. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of every patient's notes to establish which patients were referred for compartment syndrome, when they were referred and when they received treatment, and then a manual calculation would need to be made to identify the average wait between referral and treatment 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.

4. Number of emergency vs planned amputations

Please provide, for each year:

- Number of amputations carried out as emergency procedures
- Number carried out as elective/planned procedures

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-204 Amputation Data.'

5. Data definitions

Please provide any definitions or criteria used by your Trust when classifying:

- **Major vs minor amputations**
- **Causes of amputation**

ESHT does not have any definitions/criteria as requested above.

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 26/204 Amputation Data

1) Amputation numbers

Please provide the total number of amputations carried out by your Trust in each of the last three financial years:

2021/22

2022/23

2023/24

Year	Sum of NoAdmissions
2021/2022	35
2022/2023	33
2023/2024	39
Grand Total	107

Please break this down into:

- Major amputations (e.g. above or below knee, above or below elbow)
- Minor amputations (e.g. toes, partial foot, fingers)

Procedure Description	Financial Year			Grand Total
	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	
AMPUTATION OF FINGER NEC	2	4	1	7
AMPUTATION OF FOOT THROUGH ANKLE			1	1
AMPUTATION OF GREAT TOE	4	5	7	16
AMPUTATION OF LEG ABOVE KNEE	2		1	3
AMPUTATION OF LEG BELOW KNEE	5	2	8	15
AMPUTATION OF PHALANX OF FINGER	3	1	2	6
AMPUTATION OF PHALANX OF TOE	6	8	11	25
AMPUTATION OF THUMB	2			2
AMPUTATION THROUGH METATARSAL BONES	1	1	1	3
DISARTICULATION OF METATARSAL BONES		1		1
OTHER SPECIFIED AMPUTATION OF FOOT	1	2		3
OTHER SPECIFIED AMPUTATION OF TOE	7	3	2	12
UNSPECIFIED AMPUTATION OF TOE	2	6	5	13
Grand Total	35	33	39	107

4) Number of emergency vs planned amputations

- Number of amputations carried out as emergency procedures
- Number carried out as elective/planned procedures

Row Labels	Financial Year			Grand Total
	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	
DayCase	9	19	16	44
Elect Ord	8	6	7	21
Emergency	18	8	16	42
Grand Total	35	33	39	107