

6<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

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:

**I am writing to request data on the total number of instances of forced tranquilisation for the restraint of mental health patients in emergency departments in your trust each month, from the most recent month you have data for this, to as far back as records go.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of instances of forced tranquilisation for the restraint of mental health patients in its emergency departments. To enable the Trust to provide this information it would require a manual review of every medical file for every patient that attended the Emergency Departments (ED) at both Conquest Hospital and Eastbourne District General Hospital and assess (a) the nature of the patients attendance and (b) if attending in relation to mental health, what medication(s) (if any) were administered, which we estimate would take 1,098 hours to complete. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to 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.

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