

FOI REF: 26/257

5th May 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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information for each calendar year from 2020 to 2026 inclusive:

- 1. The number of cyber security breaches that have being identified that were found to be a result of a malicious threat actor (i.e. not accidental data breach)**

Under FOIA Section 31(3) the Trust neither confirm nor deny it holds the information requested and is applying a Section 31(1)(a) exemption because disclosure of this information under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

The Trust considers that the release of this information would provide information about the NHS Trust's information security systems and its resilience to cyber-attacks which would make the Trust more vulnerable to crime.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in preventing the prejudice outweighs the public interest in disclosure due to the significant impact a cyber-attack can have on staff, patients and the wider community.

- 2. The breakdown in high-level causes of these breaches as identified by cyber security incident response teams (CSIRTs), for example (but not limited to) unpatched software/hardware, lack of multi-factor authentication (MFA), leaked user credentials, lack of in-transit encryption, etc**

Section 31(3) applied, please see above.

- 3. The number of breaches that occurred that were attributed to a previously known vulnerability to the organisations hardware, software, policies, or processes, for example where system was known to be at risk due to being unpatched or out of support, or security controls were recommended but not enforced, and was defined within the resulting incident response report.**

[Section 31\(3\) applied, please refer to question 1.](#)

- 4. The estimated combined costs incurred as a result of cyber security breaches defined in request number one in each year.**

[Section 31\(3\) applied, please refer to 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 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