

13<sup>th</sup> 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:

**Requested information (please answer for your organisation):**

**1) Service existence and configuration:**

- a) **Does your NHS body host, or directly provide a dedicated headache and/or migraine service/clinic? If yes, please specify whether it is: dedicated headache clinic; migraine clinic; neurology clinic with dedicated headache sessions; community service; or other (please describe).**

Yes, a dedicated Headache Service is provided within the Acute Trust that provides for patients with headaches and migraines in Headache clinics. Patients with headaches are also seen in the general Neurology clinics.

- b) **Please provide the service name(s), provider organisation(s)/site(s), and patient group(s) served (adult, paediatric, or both).**

Headache Service – provided at Eastbourne District General Hospital and at the Conquest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea. The service is for patients aged 16 years and above.

**2) Named clinical/service lead:**

- a) **Please provide the name, job title, and employing organisation of the current named clinical/service lead for the headache/migraine service/pathway.**

Amanda Combes (Advanced Practitioner Neurology, Headaches & Injectables) – Clinical Service Lead.

Dr Rajapakshe (Consultant Neurologist) – Consultant Lead.

- b) **If there is no single named lead, please provide the name(s) and title(s) of the most senior clinician(s) responsible for headache/migraine care/pathway governance.**

Not applicable.

**3) Workforce size (headcount and WTE):**

**For the most recent 12-month period available (or the latest point-in-time establishment), please provide the staffing complement allocated to the headache/migraine service/pathway, broken down as follows:**

**a) Nurses (including headache specialist nurses/ANPs) – headcount and WTE, and banding (e.g., Agenda for Change band) if recorded.**

- Advanced Practitioner Neurology, Headaches & Injectables x 1 WTE.  
(This is a Band 8a position.)
- Headache Specialist Nurse x 1 WTE.  
(This is a Band 7 position).
- Headache Support Worker x 1 WTE.  
(This is a Band 4 position.)

**b) Pharmacists (clinical pharmacists, prescribing pharmacists, medicines optimisation) – headcount and WTE, and banding/grade if recorded.**

There are none allocated to the Headache Service.

**c) Administrative/clerical staff – headcount and WTE, and banding/grade if recorded.**

Administrative and clerical duties are covered by the Band 4 post detailed in the response to question 3a.

**d) Any other staff groups materially involved in the service (optional but helpful): consultants/medical staff, allied health professionals, psychologist, physician associates – headcount and WTE.**

There are no other staff groups materially involved in the Headache Service.

**4) Service capacity indicators (optional but helpful):**

**a) Number of headache/migraine clinics/sessions delivered per week or per month (or annual total).**

There are 8 clinics a week, with an additional 3 clinics a month.

- b) Number of new and follow up appointments for headache/migraine in the last 12 months (if recorded).

**New Appointments for April 2025 – March 2026:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>New Appointments</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>292</b>
April	13
May	12
June	6
July	64
August	48
September	58
October	29
November	35
December	27
<b>2026</b>	<b>97</b>
January	32
February	53
March	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>389</b>

**Follow-up Appointments for April 2025 – March 2026:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Follow-up Appointments</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>2453</b>
April	252
May	245
June	250
July	334
August	231
September	324
October	292
November	254
December	271
<b>2026</b>	<b>823</b>
January	270
February	279
March	274
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3276</b>

- c) Current waiting time for first appointment (e.g., median or RTT measure used locally) for headache/migraine referrals.**

22 weeks.

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