

24th June 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
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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:

For the financial year 2024/25 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025), please provide the following information:

- 1) **The total number of patients who presented to your emergency department(s) with paracetamol overdose or suspected paracetamol toxicity.**

496.

- 2) **Of those presentations, how many involved patients aged 17 years or under. If possible, please break this down by the following age groups: 0-11 years, 12-15 years, 16-17 years.**

Age Group	Number of Attendances
0-11	13
12-15	80
16-17	34

- 3) **Of all presentations, where this information is recorded, how many were classified as:**

- a) **Accidental overdose or therapeutic excess - defined as an unintentional overdose taken for therapeutic purposes?**

12.

- b) **Intentional self-poisoning?**

41.

- c) **Unknown or unclassified?**

443.

4) Of all presentations, how many involved a combination product containing paracetamol - such as a cold and flu remedy, co-codamol or similar - rather than paracetamol alone?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) does not centrally record how many presentations at ESHT's Emergency Departments with a paracetamol overdose or suspected paracetamol toxicity might have involved a combination product containing paracetamol rather than paracetamol alone. To enable ESHT to establish if we can provide this information would require a manual review of every medical file for every patient who presented at ESHT's Emergency Departments with a paracetamol overdose or suspected paracetamol activity between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025. We estimate that this would take over 41 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 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