

FOI REF: 26/387

2nd July 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 provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following information. For clarity I have enumerated the information I am requesting. If you do not hold some of this information then I ask you to confirm explicitly that you do not hold it.

1. The total number of clinical staff in Trust's Emergency Department(s).

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust has a total of 188 clinical staff working in the Trust's Emergency Departments.

2. The number of clinical staff in the Trust's Emergency Department(s) who have participated in an evacuation live play exercise.

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

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 operational information in the event of an emergency and undermines the effectiveness of protective security arrangements.

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 an attack against the Trust can have on staff, patients and the wider community.

3. The date(s) of the most recent evacuation live play exercise(s) of the Trust's Emergency Department(s).

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.

Please refer to question 2.

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