

8th July 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to know more about the support for Hindus in your Trust, and would appreciate if you could supply us with the information as below:

1. Chaplaincy Provision

1.1 Could you please advise on your Trust's current chaplaincy policy, specifically with reference to Hindu religious and spiritual provision?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) provides pastoral, spiritual and religious care to all patients, family members and staff, regardless of faith or belief. We would happily do our best to support members of any faith group either ourselves or by calling in support.

1.2 Do you currently have Hindu chaplains within your Trust, and if so, how many?

ESHT do not have any Hindu Chaplains in this Trust.

1.3 Where there is no provision, we would be happy to explore supporting the Trust by offering trained volunteer Hindu chaplains, in line with NHS governance and safeguarding requirements.

ESHT Chaplaincy is receptive to further discussions on this matter.

2. Prayer and Quiet Spaces

2.1 Does your Trust provide designated prayer or quiet spaces for Hindu staff and patients?

There is a Chapel which is broadly for Christians, a Muslim prayer room and a small pastoral care room. We do not have a specific prayer or quiet spaces specifically for Hindu patients, family members and staff.

2.2 Where such facilities are not available, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss and explore how we may assist in identifying or supporting appropriate arrangements.

We would be happy to engage in discussions regarding potential arrangements; however, there is very limited scope to allocate any additional space for Hindu use.

3. Dietary Provision

3.1 Does your Trust currently offer sattvik vegetarian meals suitable for Hindu patients?

ESHT do not currently offer sattvik vegetarian meals.

3.2 If this is an area for development, we would be pleased to explore and suggest approved suppliers or caterers experienced in providing sattvik meals that meet NHS standards.

ESHT do not feel this is an area that we need to explore currently.

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