

21st July 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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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:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the provision and charging of pregnancy ultrasound images within your maternity services. If you do not provide maternity services, please can you indicate this by return.

Please could you provide the following information for the most recent full financial year available (and, where possible, for the previous two financial years for comparison):

1. Charging Practice

- a) Do you charge patients for printed or digital ultrasound images taken during pregnancy scans?**

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not charge patients for printed or digital ultrasound images taken during pregnancy scans.](#)

- b) If yes, please confirm:**

- **The charge per individual image**
- **Whether charges differ by scan type (e.g. dating scan, anomaly scan, growth scan)**
- **How the charge is collected - pre-paid tokens, card payments etc and who is responsible for organising this and ensuring this happens**
- **What do you do if there is a poor outcome/bad news e.g. no fetal heart rate - do you still charge?**

[Not applicable.](#)

2. Bundles or Packages

- a) Do you offer any discounted bundles or packages (e.g. multiple images, digital downloads, or combined print/digital offers)?
- b) If yes, please provide details of:
 - Bundle types available
 - Pricing for each bundle

Not applicable.

3. Cost of Provision

Please provide an estimate of the annual cost to the Trust of providing ultrasound images, including (where available):

- Printing materials (paper, ink, thermal paper, etc.)
- Equipment costs (e.g. printers, maintenance, depreciation if recorded)
- Staff time attributable to producing/distributing images

If exact figures are not held, please provide the closest available estimate.

Approximately £1,302 from June 2025 to June 2026.

If detailed cost data is not held, please indicate whether ultrasound image charges are intended to operate on a cost-recovery basis

Not applicable.

4. Income Generated

- a) Total annual income generated from charges for ultrasound images
- b) Number of images (or transactions) charged for annually, if recorded

Not applicable.

5. Profit / Surplus

If calculated by your organisation:

- The annual surplus or profit generated from ultrasound image charges
- If profit is not formally calculated, please confirm whether income exceeds estimated cost.

Not applicable.

- **Please indicate what, if any profit, was used for - e.g. reinvestment in USS services, other equipment for maternity services, into Trust bottom line, used as a CIP (Cost Improvement Programme) etc**

Not applicable.

6. Policy Context (if available)

Please provide:

- **Any relevant policies or guidance relating to charging for ultrasound images**
- **Rationale for implementing charges (if documented)**

Not applicable.

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