

29th 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:

This is a Freedom of Information request. With respect to your organisation:

- 1. Please provide the date when your medical device (as defined by MHRA, i.e. also including relevant software) procurement policy (or policies, if you e.g. have a separate one for medical software) was/were last updated.**

[May 2026.](#)

- 2. Please state whether the policy (mentioned in point 1 above) requires that a clinical ethicist should be consulted during purchase decisions (if a clinical ethicist is only needs to be consulted under certain conditions, please list these). A clinical ethicists is defined as a member of your clinical ethics committee (under whatever name it operates in your organisation, but this does not include research ethics committees) or an academic with a dedicated post in ethics or a permanent staff members explicitly employed to provide clinical ethics support.**

[All new purchases of non-standard Trust equipment have to be approved by the organisation's clinical procurement group, chaired by the Medical Director and co-chaired by the Head of Procurement](#)

- 3. If the policy requires ethical issues to be considered during such devise purchase decisions, but not via input of a clinical ethicist as defined above, please state the mechanisms in place for fulfilling that requirement.**

[The policy refers to social sustainability:](#)

[“Social Sustainability](#)

[The Trust promotes safe and ethical practice by:](#)

- [• Ensuring equitable access to safe, reliable equipment across services.](#)
- [• Providing the required training for all device users.](#)
- [• Working with suppliers who follow ethical and transparent labour standards.](#)

Advancing Equality of Opportunity

- *Staff training pathways are designed to be **equitable and accessible**, ensuring competency across diverse workforce groups.*
- *Clinical teams must consider patient needs such as disability, language, literacy, and cognitive differences when choosing and applying devices.*
- *Monitoring of incidents and device-related adverse events allows early detection of any **disproportionate impacts** on protected groups.*

Protected Group Considerations

- ***Disability:** Risk mitigated through accessible procurement standards and clinical assessment.*
- ***Race/Ethnicity:** Potential variation in device performance (e.g., skin-based sensors); mitigated through training and procurement scrutiny.*
- ***Age:** Older adults and children may require adapted interfaces or device types; addressed through training and suitability checks.*
- ***Religion/Belief:** Devices containing animal-derived materials may require alternative options.*
- ***Pregnancy/Maternity:** Radiation- or exposure-based devices require specific safeguards.*

No significant adverse impacts identified for sex, sexual orientation, or gender reassignment.”

- 4. Please state whether you had clinical ethicist (as defined above) involvement in the purchase of any clinical artificial intelligence applications irrespective of whether this is mandated by your policy.**

The Trust does not employ a clinical ethicist as defined in the request. Consequently, no clinical ethicist has been involved in the procurement of clinical artificial intelligence applications. All proposed AI procurements are reviewed through the Trust's clinical governance and procurement processes by a multidisciplinary clinical team, including the Chief Clinical Information Officer (CCIO), Chief Nursing Information Officer (CNIO), and Deputy Chief Medical Officer (CMO). These individuals have received training in AI clinical safety and provide oversight of the clinical, safety, ethical and governance considerations associated with AI-enabled technologies.

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