

14th August 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:

I would like to request the following information from your Trust:

The total number of referrals received for hair loss treatment (including but not limited to alopecia, androgenetic alopecia, telogen effluvium, and other forms of hair loss) for the period 1st of January 2021 to 31st of December 2025 (five full calendar years), broken down by:

- 1. Year of referral**
- 2. Patient gender**
- 3. Patient age at time of referral**
- 4. Geographic location of where the patient has been referred from**

This request specifically excludes patients whose hair loss is recorded as a side effect of, or otherwise associated with, an active cancer treatment plan (including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or other oncological treatments). Please only include referrals for hair loss unrelated to cancer treatment in the figures provided.

Please be advised that whilst the Dermatology Department here at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) does treat hair loss including alopecia areata, lichen planopilaris/frontal fibrosing alopecia, lupus and central cicatricial alopecia in an outpatient setting, we do not record diagnostic codes for this activity and therefore we cannot readily extract the information you request.

To enable the Trust to provide this information it would require a manual review of all patients notes that were seen in Dermatology Outpatients which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of 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