



East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

FOI REF: 26/441

12th August 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
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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, contained within the attached document - 'FOI 26-441 Response'.

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

No	Question	Response Format	
	Local workforce planning		
1a	Do you undertake formal AHP Safe Staffing Establishment reviews within your Trust? (choose one answer)	Yes, for some AHPs in the Trust Yes for all AHPs in the Trust No ✓	
1b.	Do you undertake formal registered Physiotherapy Safe Staffing Establishment reviews within your Trust? (choose one answer)	Yes for all physiotherapy staff Yes for some Physiotherapy staff No ✓	
1c	If you answered yes to Question 1b, when was the last Physiotherapy Safe Staffing Establishment Review conducted? (choose one answer) Not applicable	0 to 2 years 3 to 5 years 6 to 8 years 8 to 10 years Over 10 years	
1d	What action has the Trust taken when reviews highlight understaffing of physiotherapy staff in Trusts? (choose one answer)	Increase registered physiotherapy posts ✓ Increase physiotherapy support worker posts ✓ Increase administration posts ✓ Neither of the above	
1e	Does your organisation have a formal, documented definition of 'safe and effective staffing' that includes AHP services? (choose one answer)	Yes - we have a standardised definition for AHPs No- we do not have a formal documented definition for AHP staffing ✓ Unsure	
1f	Have you developed any local teaching or training resources regarding AHP Safe Staffing? (choose one answer)	Yes, we have developed resources, but they are for Yes, we have developed resources and they could be shared nationally/ regionally ✓ No, we have not developed any local resources No, but resources are currently in development	
	Local employment policies		
2a	Does your trust have a budget for maternity cover or a policy for allowing overspend to pay for maternity cover? (choose on answer)	Yes ✓	
2b	If you answered yes to 2a, is this budget or policy accessible to cover nursing staff maternity leave? (choose one answer)	Yes ✓	
2c	If you answered yes to 2a, is this budget or policy accessible to cover physiotherapy staff maternity leave? (choose one answer)	Yes ✓	

No	Question	Response Format	
2d	If you answered yes to 2c, does the budget provide: (choose one answer)	100% cover 75-99% cover 50-74% cover ✓ Less than 50% cover	
2e	Does your trust have a budget for long term sickness cover or a policy for allowing overspend to pay for long term sickness cover? (choose one answer)	Yes No ✓ There is no budget for long term sickness, however, depending on the circumstances, and whether the role is critical, either additional spend for Bank or Agency staffing may be approved.	
2f	If you answered yes to 2e, is this budget or policy accessible to cover long term sickness leave for physiotherapy staff (choose one answer)	Yes No Not applicable, please refer to 2e above. ✓	
2g	If you answered yes to 2f, does the budget provide: (choose one answer)	100% cover 75-99% cover 50-74% cover Less than 50% cover Not applicable.	
Recruitment			
3a	How many registered physiotherapist roles by head count for each band did the Trust recruit to between 1 January and 31 December 2023?	Band 5 Band 6 Band 7 Band 8a	Headcount 16 WTE 16.0 Headcount 6 WTE 4.9 Headcount 2 WTE 2.0 Headcount 1 WTE 0.6
3b	How many registered physiotherapist roles by head count for each band did the Trust recruit to between 1 January and 31 December 2024?	Band 5 Band 6 Band 7 Band 8a	Headcount 15 WTE 14.6 Headcount 7 WTE 6.5 Headcount 6 WTE 3.8 Headcount 1 WTE 0.6
3c	How many registered physiotherapist roles by head count for each band did the Trust recruit to between 1 January and 31 December 2025?	Band 5 Band 6 Band 7 Band 8a	Headcount 15 WTE 15.0 Headcount 7 WTE 5.9 Headcount 0 WTE 0 Headcount 0 WTE 0
3d	Has the Trust operated a recruitment freeze or pause in recruitment for physiotherapy staff in the last 12 months (choose one answer)	Yes No ✓ Not sure	
3e	Do you anticipate the Trust carrying out recruitment freezes or pause in recruitment for physiotherapy staff in the next 12 months? (choose one answer)	Yes No ✓ Not sure	