

5th August 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:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to unauthorised access by members of staff to patient records held by your Trust.

For the period from 1 January 2021 to the date this request is processed, please provide:

- 1) The date on which the Trust most recently completed an audit, review, or other proactive monitoring exercise intended to identify inappropriate or unauthorised access to patient records by staff (for example, access where there was no legitimate work-related reason).**

[The Information Governance Team's last randomised audit of staff access of patient health records took place 30 June 2026.](#)

- 2) As a result of that most recent audit or monitoring exercise:**

- The number of incidents identified where the Trust concluded that a member of staff had accessed patient records without a legitimate work-related reason, or where the access was otherwise found to be inappropriate or unauthorised.**

[0](#)

- 3) During the period 1 January 2021 to the date this request is processed:**

- The number of cases involving inappropriate or unauthorised access to patient records that were referred or reported to an external enforcement or regulatory body (for example, the Information Commissioner's Office, the police, NHS Counter Fraud Authority, or a professional regulator).**

[There were 5 cases which were referred to the Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\).](#)

- 4) During the same period, the number of staff who received each of the following outcomes or sanctions in relation to inappropriate or unauthorised access to patient records:
- | | |
|---|----|
| a) Informal management action | 0 |
| b) Written warning (or equivalent) | 65 |
| c) Final written warning (or equivalent) | 9 |
| d) Suspension | 0 |
| e) Dismissal | 1 |
| f) Resignation while under investigation | 2 |
| g) Referral to a professional regulator | 0 |
| h) Any other disciplinary outcome (please specify the category if recorded) | 0 |
- 5) As of the date this request is processed, the number of members of staff who are currently subject to an active investigation concerning alleged inappropriate or unauthorised access to patient records.

3.

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