

21st August 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
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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 the following information relating to your Type 1 Emergency Department(s).

Unless otherwise stated, please provide the information for each calendar year 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026.

1) Long A&E waits:

Please provide the total number of patients whose total time in the Emergency Department (measured from arrival/registration to admission, transfer or discharge) fell within each of the following categories:

a) 4 to less than 8 hours.

b) 8 to less than 12 hours.

c) 12 hours or more.

- Please provide this information broken down by calendar month.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-545 Emg WT'.](#)

2) Mental health attendances:

Please provide the total number of attendances at your Type 1 Emergency Department(s) where the patient's primary presenting complaint, diagnosis, or clinical reason for attendance was recorded as a mental health condition or mental health crisis, for each reporting period.

- If your Trust uses a specific coding definition or national dataset to identify these attendances, please use your standard reporting definition and briefly describe it.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-545 Emg WT'.](#)

3) Waiting time for a mental health bed following a decision to admit:

For the patients identified in Question 2 who required admission to a mental health inpatient bed, please provide the number of patients who waited the following lengths of time from the recorded decision to admit (or equivalent timestamp if a decision-to-admit field is not recorded) until departure from the Emergency Department:

- a) 4 to less than 8 hours.**
- b) 8 to less than 12 hours.**
- c) 12 hours or more.**

We do not hold this information. This is because the data is not always recorded in a way that indicates when a patient is specifically awaiting a mental health bed, nor is the point at which this decision is made within the Emergency Departments consistently captured. In addition, the decision-to-admit date and time is not considered reliable for mental health patients.

The Trust does not have its own mental health beds, patients may be transferred elsewhere, i.e. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, after initially being admitted within the Trust.

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

Information relating Type 1 Emergency Department(s).

1) Long A&E waits:

Total number of patients whose total time in the Emergency Department (measured from arrival/registration to admission, transfer or discharge) fell within each of the following categories:

a) 4 to less than 8 hours.

Month	Year					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	1139	1660	2033	1727	1771	2144
Feb	523	2017	2019	1773	1457	1798
Mar	662	2466	2089	1382	1972	1687
Apr	746	2303	1989	1378	1554	1554
May	1340	2518	2256	1487	1649	2128
Jun	1529	2197	1944	1208	1805	1929
Jul	1642	2691	2151	1214	2006	
Aug	1939	2469	2043	956	1887	
Sep	1880	2345	1957	1416	1706	
Oct	1823	2503	2054	1920	1852	
Nov	1575	2435	2067	1930	2099	
Dec	1874	2531	1879	2012	2029	
Grand Total	16672	28135	24481	18403	21787	11240

b) 8 to less than 12 hours.

Month	Year					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	641	608	991	1261	973	1003
Feb	145	736	949	1079	803	837
Mar	144	1097	1061	986	1027	788
Apr	130	975	951	1052	893	711
May	257	971	1024	971	734	877
Jun	411	810	844	997	814	791
Jul	465	1287	928	1017	981	
Aug	636	1298	1008	1090	863	
Sep	678	1128	947	944	773	
Oct	752	1263	1075	1036	817	
Nov	828	1246	1263	1019	886	
Dec	730	1631	1247	1156	854	
Grand Total	5817	13050	12288	12608	10418	5007

c) 12 hours or more.

Month	Year					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	400	114	567	921	1262	1429
Feb	38	240	458	734	1109	1161
Mar	28	394	705	700	1175	1036
Apr	37	382	424	761	736	1144
May	93	295	359	772	675	1232
Jun	94	315	325	742	898	1186
Jul	115	524	322	822	744	
Aug	263	624	338	915	813	
Sep	282	641	431	1020	794	
Oct	332	720	687	1196	1106	
Nov	386	715	711	1052	1180	
Dec	291	1416	798	1261	1126	
Grand Total	2359	6380	6125	10896	11618	7188

2) **Mental health attendances:**

Number of Mental Heath attendances at your Type 1 Emergency Department(s)

Month	Year					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	253	371	403	462	448	486
Feb	321	385	338	419	360	455
Mar	382	397	438	509	452	472
Apr	392	348	408	411	382	442
May	406	393	395	479	485	494
Jun	403	382	414	461	489	520
Jul	367	397	504	449	512	
Aug	396	445	459	440	569	
Sep	320	417	468	464	517	
Oct	314	378	390	442	540	
Nov	321	382	388	413	514	
Dec	345	318	402	435	479	
Grand Total	4220	4613	5007	5384	5747	2869