

11th September 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 wish to make a request relating to compliance with NICE Guideline NG126 recommendation 1.2.1.

NICE guidelines NG126 state:

"1.2 Early pregnancy assessment services

1.2.1

Regional services should be organised so that an early pregnancy assessment service is available 7 days a week for women with early pregnancy complications, where scanning can be carried out and decisions about management made. [2012]"

1) Risk Register:

Please provide copies of all risk register entries relating to Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU) service provision and/or compliance with NICE Guideline NG126.

For each risk identified, please provide:

- a) The date the risk was first entered onto the risk register.
- b) The current risk rating.
- c) The risk owner.
- d) The risk description.
- e) Any mitigating actions recorded.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) contacted you to seek clarification as to the timeframe for which you were seeking copies of Risk Register entries relating to Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU) service provision and/or compliance with NICE Guideline NG126.

You responded and confirmed:

"Risk register - all current entries"

Our Head of Risk Management has confirmed we have no current Risk Register entries relating to your request.

2) Awareness of Non-Compliance:

- a) The earliest recorded date on which the lack of compliance with NICE Guideline NG126 was formally brought to the attention of those responsible for service delivery, governance, divisional management, or executive oversight.
- b) Copies of, or extracts from, the earliest recorded documents identifying or discussing the non-compliance.
- c) Any recorded implementation plans, action plans, target dates, or timelines relating to achieving compliance with NICE Guideline NG126 recommendation 1.2.1.

Please be advised that ESHT does not assess itself to be non-compliant with NICE Guideline NG126; this is because we provide patients with access to our EPU service, and access to scanning for women with early pregnancy complications where clinically indicated. Additionally, NICE Guideline NG126 is not explicit as to the timescales for when scans should be undertaken, rather, just that the EPU service “...***is available seven days a week...where scanning can be carried out and decisions about management made.***”

However, ESHT recognises that at times there have been delays with scanning, and this recognition has been a key driver behind the ongoing development of its EPU business case to improve and enhance its commitment to high standards of care for patients. In the interim, a review and refresh of the process and triage of cases has already been undertaken to help support the EPU business case.

3) Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU) Business Plan:

- a) The date on which any EPU business case or business plan intended to address service gaps and/or compliance with NICE Guideline NG126 recommendation 1.2.1 was submitted.
- b) Copies of the business case or business plan. If there are any exemptions, please provide a summary of the contents.
- c) The estimated cost of implementing the full business plan, as recorded within the business case or supporting documents.
- d) The estimated cost of implementing those measures identified as necessary to achieve compliance with NICE Guideline NG126 recommendation 1.2.1, where such information is held.
- e) Copies of any recorded decision papers, meeting minutes, reports, or business case assessments discussing approval, rejection, deferral, funding, or implementation of the business plan.

Please be advised that ESHT's EPU business case is currently in draft form and is not available in any format for disclosure at this time. The timescales for its finalisation are not currently known, but it has been approved in principle with some last elements still to work through.

4) **Datix Reporting:**

Please provide copies of any reports, audits, governance papers, board papers, divisional reports, or risk reviews produced prior to submission of the EPU business case that summarise DATIX incidents relating to delayed or cancelled EPU scans.

ESHT contacted you to seek clarification as to the timeframe for which you were seeking copies of reports, audits, governance papers, board papers, divisional reports or risk reviews produced prior to submission of the EPU business case that summarises DATIX incident relating to delayed or cancelled EPU scans.

You responded and confirmed:

“DATIX - ideally 5 years prior to business case being submitted. And then any DATIX incidents since the business case was submitted.”

Firstly, our Datix Team has confirmed that no incidents of delayed or cancelled EPU scans were recorded for the period 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2026. Given this, there were no reports, audits, governance reports, board papers, divisional reports or risk reviews produced that summarises Datix incidents as no Datix incidents were recorded.

Secondly, and as explained in our response to Question 3, ESHT's EPU business case is currently in draft form and has not been submitted to any forum or committee. Given this, we have no Datix incidents recorded in this regard at this time as the EPU business case has not yet been fully approved.

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