

9th 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 am requesting the following information:

- 1) Number of surgical procedures cancelled or postponed since Jan 1st 2022 due to problems with surgical instruments, including: inadequate sterilisation, missing instruments, or contamination concerns.**

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-479 - Response', broken down by Speciality.

Please note that we do not hold this information broken down by hospitals.

- 2) Number of internal incident reports or safety concerns raised since Jan 1st 2022 from health practitioners referring to issues with surgical equipment or instruments.**

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-479 - Response', broken down by hospital.

- Please break down the information by calendar year and hospitals in your trust.**

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-479 - Response' and note in question 1.

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

Question 1 - Number of Surgical Procedures cancelled or postpone

Speciality		2024												2025											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Breast Surgery	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cardiology	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Dentals	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dermatology	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Endoscopy	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
ENT	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Gastroenterology	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Surgery	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gynaecology	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Maxillo-Facial Surgery	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmology	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	4	0	1	0	4	0	0	2	10	0	16	7	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	1
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	8	21	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2
Trauma and Orthopaedics	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	3	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	2	5	3	7	0	3	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	3	0	4	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	0
Urology	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Pre Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	5	1	0	0	0	0
Vascular Surgery	Equipment Unavailable or failed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hosp Canc Post Adm Date - Equip Fail/Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Question 2 - Number of Internal Incident Reports or Safety Concerns raised referring to issues with Surgical Equipment or Instruments

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust / Bexhill Hospital	5	22	4	5	3	39
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust / Community Sites/Units	1	2	4	1	1	9
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust / Conquest Hospital	108	47	42	42	20	259
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust / Eastbourne District General Hospital	41	32	22	23	24	142
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust / Uckfield Community Hospital	15	8	3	1	0	27
Total	170	111	75	72	48	476