

19th 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:

1. The number of ENT/ OMFs surgeons treating head and neck cancer (please do not include surgeons not involved in the treatment of cancer)

Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) currently has four ENT Consultants who assess, diagnose, and manage patients with suspected head and neck cancers. Patients requiring specialist cancer treatment are subsequently referred to the Sussex Cancer Centre at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UHSx).

Two ENT Consultants undertake the surgical treatment of thyroid cancer locally in Eastbourne District General Hospital, where patients are deemed suitable for surgery following discussion and agreement at the UHSx multidisciplinary team meeting (MDT).

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS)

ESHT has two substantive Oral and Maxillofacial Consultants and one Locum Consultant who assess and diagnose head and neck cancers. Patients requiring specialist treatment are referred to the Sussex Cancer Centre at UHSx.

Of the three OMFS Consultants, one is the ESHT Head and Neck Cancer Lead and holds a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with UHSx to undertake major head and neck cancer surgery and treatment at UHSx. This work is carried out in conjunction with the Locum Consultant, who is contracted by UHSx and provides regular outpatient clinics within ESHT.

2. The MDT arrangement for head and neck cancer.

Head and Neck Cancer is managed via a hub and spoke model with UHSx, as the Specialist Centre (the “hub”), patients are initially seen as Urgent Suspected Cancers / Upgrades at ESHT and initial diagnostics are carried out locally. All Head and Neck Cancer patients are discussed at the Specialist, UHSx Hosted Head and Neck MDM which ESHT clinicians are a part of. All major surgical treatments for Head and Neck Cancers are carried out at UHSx as is Radiotherapy and Chemo-Radiotherapy. Chemotherapy alone is delivered at ESHT as are appropriate supportive treatments.

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