

9th October 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 writing to request finance and workforce information for the Histopathology (Cellular Pathology) service.

Please provide all the data that you are able to. If some data is unavailable, a partial response is welcome — simply complete the years you can. Estimated figures are acceptable where exact numbers are not held; please indicate any estimate and an approximate error margin (%) in the comments column.

Completion notes and definitions:

- **All figures should relate to the histopathology (cellular pathology) service only. If the budget / cost centre combines histopathology with other disciplines and cannot be separated, please provide the combined figure and note what it includes in the comments.**
- **Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March (e.g., 2010/11 = 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011).**
- **Pay cost = total staff pay including on-costs (employer National Insurance and pension) for the service that financial year.**
- **Non-pay cost = consumables, reagents, maintenance, service contracts and other non-pay revenue costs.**
- **Outsourcing / insourcing spend = the cost of histopathology work sent to, or bought in from, other providers.**
- **Capital funding = capital spent on the histopathology service that year (e.g., digital pathology scanners / IT, laboratory automation, AI software). A single combined figure is fine; please itemise in the comments if easily done.**
- **Whole-time equivalent (WTE) = in-post WTE charged to the service, from the finance / budget ledger, grouped by pay band: pathologists (consultant or specialty / SAS doctor); AfC band 7/8 (senior / advanced and reporting BMS, and**

laboratory management); AfC band 5/6 (biomedical scientists); AfC band 2–4 (medical laboratory assistants / support and clerical / admin).

- Where a figure for a given year cannot be provided, please note the reason in the comments for that year.

Respondent details:

ITEM	YOUR RESPONSE
Cost centre(s) / service name used for histopathology	CONQ PATHOLOGY HISTOPATHOLOGY (CC 3265)
Does this budget combine histopathology with other disciplines? (Yes/No — if Yes, what is included)	No
Name of hospital trust completing data return	East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Is your histology work completed by a different hospital trust/organisation? (Yes/No — if Yes, which)	No

Q1. Histopathology finance, by financial year (£):

Financial Year	Pay Cost (£)	Non-Pay Cost (£)	Outsourcing / Insourcing (£)	Capital Funding (£)	Comments
2010/11	-	-	-	-	A Section 12 (1) exemption has been applied regarding FY 2010/11 - FY 2015/16. Please refer to the wording on page 3 of the Final Letter.
2011/12	-	-	-	-	
2012/13	-	-	-	-	
2013/14	-	-	-	-	
2014/15	-	-	-	-	
2015/16	-	-	-	-	
2016/17	2,155,872	366,225	97,976	**	None
2017/18	4,347,243	1,046,667	474,194	**	None
2018/19	3,882,727	1,920,318	1,568,969	**	None
2019/20	3,889,144	1,737,139	1,250,578	**	None
2020/21	3,618,432	1,501,274	1,026,239	**	None
2021/22	2,093,182	1,083,184	834,198	**	None
2022/23	2,190,827	1,656,623	1,371,558	**	None
2023/24	2,538,864	1,676,197	1,331,838	0	None
2024/25	2,734,920	2,825,618	2,405,401	157,113	None
2025/26	2,900,041	3,349,276	2,979,869	689,000	None

** Please note that the capital plan prior to 2023/24 does not provide the level of detail required to specifically identify capital expenditure relating to Histopathology. Total capital expenditure figures are published within the Trust's Annual Report and Accounts. This information is available via the link below:

[Corporate publications – East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust](#)

The finance reporting system used by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust prior to 2016 did not record centrally the information that has been requested. To establish if the Trust can provide this information would require a manual review of over six years of financial data. We estimate that this would take well in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

Q2. Histopathology workforce (in-post WTE), by financial year:

Whole-time equivalents in post, by pay band, from the finance / budget ledger.

FINANCIAL YEAR	PATHOLOGISTS (CONS/SAS) WTE	BAND 7/8 WTE	BAND 5/6 WTE	BAND 2-4 WTE	COMMENTS
2010/11	8.6	3.0	3.1	9.1	None
2011/12	8.7	4.0	9.3	11.0	None
2012/13	8.5	2.0	6.3	9.4	None
2013/14	7.7	2.0	5.3	10.3	None
2014/15	5.2	5.0	9.7	10.6	None
2015/16	4.0	4.0	9.9	9.3	None
2016/17	5.8	4.8	10.8	10.8	None
2017/18	4.8	2.8	8.0	9.0	None
2018/19	2.8	3.8	7.0	10.8	None
2019/20	4.8	3.8	5.5	12.8	None
2020/21	5.9	5.7	4.6	13.6	None
2021/22	6.9	5.7	7.7	12.6	None
2022/23	6.0	6.6	8.9	11.5	None
2023/24	6.9	6.6	10.3	13.5	None
2024/25	6.9	5.6	10.5	13.3	None
2025/26	6.5	7.5	9.6	15.5	None

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