

FOI REF: 26/667

22nd October 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
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 formally request recorded information held by your organization regarding the commissioning, tendering, and contractual delivery specifications for the East Sussex Children's Integrated Therapy and Equipment Service (CITES).

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust \(ESHT\) does not hold the information requested. We understand that this information is held by Surrey and Sussex Integrated Care Board, to whom you have also submitted your request.](#)

Specifically, I request full disclosure of the following documents and recorded data:

1) Tender Service Specification & Contractual Scope:

- a) **The original service specification and contract schedule issued during the tender process for the East Sussex CITES contract.**
- b) **The specific contractual obligations and clinical scope required of the winning provider (Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust) regarding Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) delivery.**

[Note applicable to ESHT.](#)

2) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) & Service Level Agreements (SLAs):

- a) **The mandatory KPIs, SLAs, and performance standards set out in the contract governing patient contact times, continuation of care, and quality standards for SALT provision.**

[Note applicable to ESHT.](#)

3) Discharge Protocols & Clinical Pathways:

- a) A copy of the approved clinical pathways, guidance, or contractual criteria defining when a child may be discharged from SALT intervention under CITES.**
- b) Specifically, any recorded criteria or guidance governing instances where a patient "passes" speech sound assessments yet continues to exhibit functional communication deficits or unintelligible speech.**

[Note applicable to ESHT.](#)

4) Contractual Oversight & Escalation Frameworks:

- a) Recorded documentation outlining the formal governance mechanisms, joint reviews, or handback procedures between the commissioning body (NHS Sussex ICB / East Sussex) and the provider (Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust) in the event of service delivery shortfalls or capacity constraints.**

[Note applicable to ESHT.](#)

Please note that identical requests have been submitted simultaneously to:

- Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust: kcht.foi@nhs.net**
- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust: esh-tr.foi@nhs.net**
- NHS Sussex ICB: surreysussexicb.foi@nhs.net**

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