

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 request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information concerning inappropriate access by staff to patient records held by the trust.

1. a) **For each calendar year from 2021 to 2025, and for 1 January 2026 to 31 August 2026, the number of investigations opened into suspected inappropriate or unauthorised access by staff (including bank, agency and contracted staff) to patient records.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-672 Response'.](#)

- b) **For the same periods, the number of those investigations in which inappropriate access was substantiated.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-672 Response'.](#)

- c) **For substantiated cases, the outcome in each period, broken down into: no formal action; informal action or retraining; formal warning; dismissal; resignation before conclusion; referral to a professional regulator.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-672 Response'.](#)

- d) **For the same periods, the number of such incidents the trust reported to the Information Commissioner's Office.**

[Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-672 Response'.](#)

2. a) **Whether, as at 31 August 2026, the trust uses automated or proactive monitoring of access to electronic patient records (for example, software that generates alerts for unusual access patterns), and, if so, the name of the product and supplier and the date it came into use.**

[No.](#)

- b) **Whether the trust has a procedure for placing additional access restrictions or alerts on the records of patients likely to attract staff curiosity (for example, high-profile patients, staff members as patients, or patients subject to media coverage), and a copy of that procedure.**

No.

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

FOI 26/672 - East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Questions 1a to 1d:

- 1a) For each calendar year from 2021 to 2025, and for 1 January 2026 to 31 August 2026, the number of investigations opened into suspected inappropriate or unauthorised access by staff (including bank, agency and contracted staff) to patient records.**

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
23	13	10	9	11	7

- 1b) For the same periods, the number of those investigations in which inappropriate access was substantiated.**

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
23	13	10	9	11	7

- 1c) For substantiated cases, the outcome in each period, broken down into: no formal action; informal action or retraining; formal warning; dismissal; resignation before conclusion; referral to a professional regulator.**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Informal/retraining	18	10	8	7	6	5
Formal action	4	0	0	1	3	1
Resignation	1	1	0	0	1	0
Ongoing	0	0	0	0	0	1
Referral	0	0	0	0	0	0

- 1d) For the same periods, the number of such incidents the trust reported to the Information Commissioner's Office.**

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1	1	1	1	1	1