

29th October 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
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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:

The purpose of this request is to gather data on the scale of bed bug infestations across NHS hospitals and the associated cost of treating and managing these infestations.

Specifically, I am seeking anonymised data on the following from 1 January 2020 to 2 October 2026.

- **If the Trust is unable to provide the requested information for the full period of 1 January 2020 to 2 October 2026, I would be grateful if you could instead provide the information for the period 1 January 2023 to 2 October 2026, where available.**
 - **I would appreciate it if the Trust could provide the information for the full requested period where reasonably available. However, where data for the earlier period is not readily accessible, please proceed with the 2023 to 2026 period rather than refusing the request in its entirety.**
- 1) **The number of confirmed or suspected bed bug infestations or incidents recorded by the Trust for each year within the specified period. Please provide the data broken down by year.**

[For the period 1 January 2023 to 2 October 2026, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust \(ESHT\) had no confirmed or suspected bed bug infestations or incidents.](#)

- 2) **The total expenditure incurred by the Trust, where recorded and readily available, in relation to the treatment, control or removal of bed bug infestations or incidents for each year within the specified period. Please provide the data broken down by year.**

This should include, where recorded and readily available, expenditure relating to:

- a) **Pest control and eradication;**
- b) **Cleaning or decontamination;**
- c) **Treatment of affected areas;**

d) **Removal or disposal of mattresses; and — removal or disposal of other affected items.**

- **Please include expenditure incurred through both in-house provision and external or contracted services, where this information is held.**

Not applicable. ESHT incurred no expenditure for treatment, control or removal of bed bug infestations as there were no confirmed or suspected bed bug infestations or incidents between 1 January 2023 and 2 October 2026.

3) **Where recorded and readily available, the number of mattresses removed or disposed of as a result of confirmed or suspected bed bug infestations for each year within the specified period. Please provide the data broken down by year.**

Please refer to responses at Question 1 and Question 2 above.

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