

FOI REF: 26/698

20th October 2026

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:

Please could you provide the following information for each of the last five completed financial years (2021/22 to 2025/26):

- 1. The number of children aged under 18 identified by the Trust as being at risk of, or experiencing, child sexual exploitation (CSE), where this was recorded in the Trust's safeguarding records. Please provide the figures separately for each financial year.**

The records maintained by the Safeguarding Team at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) are limited to just the number of referrals made to Children's Social Care (CSC), together with overarching themes that allow for annual trend analysis. These records allow us to identify exploitation as a theme however, this is not further broken down into whether it is sexual, criminal or any other type of exploitation. The table below therefore provides the number of referrals made to CSC under the theme of exploitation for each of the financial years requested.

Year	No. of Referrals to CSC
2021/22	2
2022/23	1
2023/24	13
2024/25	9
2025/26	11

- 2. The number of referrals made by the Trust to the police and/or local authority specifically in relation to suspected child sexual exploitation, with the figures provided separately for each financial year.**

Please refer to our response at Question 1 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