East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FOI REF: 26/334

4th November 2026

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:

This FOI request is for information about the numbers of ophthalmic support staff working in Eye / Ophthalmology departments in NHS Hospitals, their pay scales and their education and training.

Clarification was sought asking you to confirm the following and confirmation was received as follows:

1. **Do you want us to include a full list of mandatory training under inhouse?**

   No, if staff have only inhouse training we presume that this will include some training in the performance of ophthalmic tests and investigations.

2. **Is it only Ophthalmic related courses that we should include or any training course which staff have chosen to attend?**

   Yes, we are seeking information about courses for training staff in the performance of ophthalmic tests and investigations

3. **Is there a specific period you are looking at?**

   No, we are looking for a snapshot of current staff and any ophthalmic training they have received irrespective of timescale.

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-334 Ophthalmic Support Staff - Pay Scales Education Training' for a response to your request.

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

From: East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust: FOI 26/334 Ophthalmic Support Staff - Pay Scales, Education & Training.

For each category of staff please provide the following information:

Job title* (specify)	No of staff	Pay bands (state 2, 3, 4 etc)	Education and training** Please ✓ or add details as appropriate	
Healthcare Assistant (CSW)	21	Band 3	**In house**	
			CPD	
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	Care certificate, plus technical training appropriate to their role
Visual Field Technician	4.68	Band 3	**In house**	
			CPD	
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	Care certificate, plus technical training appropriate to their role/inhouse competency/ supported by a structured inhouse competency programme for Visual Field Assessment, including supervised assessment and competency sign-off
Senior Visual Field Technician	1.00	Band 4	**In house**	
			CPD	
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	Foundation degree in Ophthalmology/together with role-specific ophthalmic competency assessment
Vision Technician	6.00	Band 3	**In house**	All Vision Technicians complete an in-house training competency document
			CPD	All vision technicians attend regular audit and have a designated session (on rotation) to completed mandatory training. If time remains, they use this for self-directed learning.
			External course, include title and course provider	No specific course, but Zeiss who make many of the machines we use provide training. This would be via a Trust visit
			Other (please describe)	

Job title* (specify)	No of staff	Pay bands (state 2, 3, 4 etc)	Education and training** Please ✓ or add details as appropriate	
Ophthalmology Assistant Practitioner	2.00	Band 4	**In house**	
			CPD	
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	Care certificate, Associate practitioners training (Nonregistered at time of undertaking) plus technical training appropriate to their role