

Information Governance

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23 June 2021

Our reference: FOI DA3851

I am responding to your requests for information received 17 June 2021. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

When an organisation receives a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, it is allowed under the Act to apply a blanket exemption to this where it has concluded that providing a response would take in excess of eighteen hours. When the cost of compliance and extracting information would exceed eighteen hours, a cost limit of £450 can be applied. This is explained in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is based on a rate of £25 per hour, regardless of the rate of pay of any individual involved in the retrieval of requested information, and equates to eighteen hours work.

Having reviewed your request, the Trust has noted that it would not be able to all the information requested within the eighteen hours specified in the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In order to assist you with your request, I have advised below the timing each question would take in order to assist you to refine your request. If you wish to refine your request to comply with the 18 hour time limit, please do get in touch

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Keshia Harvey
Information Governance Manager

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Chair: Mark Lam

Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus

We care

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Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention

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Request 1:

Question 1. The total number of patients on a waiting list for admissions to mental health wards in your trust as of June 2021.

Question 2. The average time the patients have been waiting for an admission to mental health wards as of June 2021.

Question 3. The longest time a patient has been on the waiting list for an admission to mental health wards as of June 2021.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed questions 1-3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the FOI Act states:

Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and

(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not have a waiting list for our mental health wards. The information is therefore not held as requested.

Question 4. The total capacity of your mental health wards, so how many patients overall can be on your wards at the same time as of June 2021.

Answer: The question would take one hour to collate.

Question 5. The total number of inpatients, broken down into informal patients and those detained under the Mental Health Act as of June 2021.

Answer: The question would take two hours to collate.

Request 2:

Question 1. The total number of inpatients in your mental health wards. Please could you provide the data in a monthly breakdown for the following years:

01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018;

01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019;

01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020;

01 January 2021 to latest available data.

Answer: The question would take four hours to collate. This would be an Inpatient snapshot of how many inpatients there were at the end of each month.

Question 2. The total number of leave of absences, broken down into escorted and unescorted. Please could you provide the data in a monthly breakdown for the following years:

01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018;

01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019;

01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020;

01 January 2021 to latest available data.

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Answer: The Trust has reviewed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to collate this information, staff would have to review the each patient record to establish if the leave was escorted or unescorted as this is not recorded separately on the clinical system.

Therefore, the Trust is unable to comply with this particular part of your request as the cost of compliance and extracting your exact requirements would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450 which is specified in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is based on a rate of £25 per hour, regardless of the rate of pay of any individual involved in the retrieval of requested information, and equates to 18 hours work.

If you require the number of leave absences broken down by month, this could be provided along with questions 3 and 4 of your second request.

Question 3. The total number of home leaves. Please could you provide the data in a monthly breakdown for the following years:
01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018;
01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019;
01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020;
01 January 2021 to latest available data.

Question 4. The total number of trial leaves. Please could you provide the data in a monthly breakdown for the following years:
01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018;
01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019;
01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020;
01 January 2021 to latest available data.

Please could you provide the data as a total for all wards as well as for

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Wards**
- Adult Mental Health Wards**
- Learning Disabilities Wards**
- Older People's Mental Health Wards**

Answer: Question 2, 3 and 4 would take four hours to collate.