



East London
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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Website: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

9 December 2021

Our reference: FOI DA4006

I am responding to your request for information received 19 November 2021. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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:

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

Chair: Mark Lam

Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus

We care

We respect

We are inclusive

Request:

Question 1: How many staff members were recorded to have had long Covid while working for your trust at any time in the period between March 2020 - September 2021?

Answer: 39 staff members were recorded to have had long Covid while working for the Trust March 2020 - September 2021.

Question 2: What were the five longest periods in days that a member of staff took a leave of absence due to long Covid in the time period between March 2020 - September 2021?

Answer: The five longest periods of absence in days March 2020-September 2021 are:

- 337 days
- 225 days
- 189 days
- 152 days
- 149 days

Question 3: Could you state all leave of absences taken where long Covid was cited as the cause between March 2020 and September 2021.

Answer: Yes, all cited as Long Covid.

Question 4: Does your trust offer any specialised support for staff members living with long Covid? If so could you please provide details of these services.

Answer: Since January 2021, the Trust has run a monthly staff support group for people living with Long Covid which is co-delivered by People & Culture department and a person with lived experience.

Since August 2021, we have run a staff support group for doctors living with Long Covid between us and North East London Foundation Trust. This group meets each fortnight.

In the last two months, we run a weekly catch up session for staff living with Long Covid. This is delivered by someone with lived experience.

Support is also provided Our People advisers support staff who experience Long Covid and their managers on a case by case basis.

We signpost people to Care First (our EAP), KeepingWell services in NEL and BLMK and also our occupational health provider.

Question 5: What plans, if any, are in place to improve the support available to staff members who are living with long Covid while working for your trust?

Answer: Future plans include raising awareness of Long Covid symptoms and consequences to all our staff and to continue provision of current support and be guided by people with lived experience on their needs.