

**Information Governance**  
The Green  
1 Roger Dowley Court  
Russia Lane  
London  
E2 9NJ

**Telephone: 020 7655 4053**  
**Email [elft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:elft.foi@nhs.net)**  
**Website: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>**

4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Our reference: FOI DA3397a**

I am responding to your request for information received on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020. 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,

Ayomide Adediran  
Information Governance Coordinator

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](http://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**

### **Further request**

**I would like to thank you for your answer. Can I narrow down my last request?**

**I would like to receive both complaints and incidents registries between September 2019 and November 2019. Please put the information requested separately and indicate which one is it.**

Answer:

Between September 2019 and November 2019 there were a total of 98 complaints received. In order to establish the number of “drug offences” complaints, staff would need to scrutinise each complaint to establish if any related to drugs offences as although this information is recorded in the free text part of Datix, it is not automatically searchable. Therefore 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.

Whilst complaints would go above the 18 hour cost limit, should you wish to refine your request further to focus on incidents only, the Trust may be able to assist.

### **Original request:**

**I would like to narrow down my request, please. I would like to ask for details on the number of complaints received over drug offences in your mental health centres. This relates to visitors, staff or patients. I would like this request to be broken down into each centre the complaint was registered and I would also like to know whether the Trust has a policy around drug offences committed within its premises. If the trust has, please, explain to me what it is and what is done when staff, visitors or patients are caught using drugs.**

**I would like to receive this information on a spreadsheet. If you could please put the information into columns named as such: explanation of the complaint, the date it occurred, the decision made by the mental health centre to overcome it, if the same thing happened again.**

**Please feel free to fill the spreadsheet with new columns or rows where you seem fit, for example if there are any numbers and/or name used to classify the complaint.**

**By “drug offences”, I mean staff, visitors and patients who were caught smoking cannabis or doing any sort of drugs on the trusts' premises, people who complained about smelling weed smoke, for example, and also patients bringing back drugs like cannabis and cocaine when they are on leave but still under the care of the hospital.**

Answer:

The Trust does not hold all the information in your request centrally. In order to establish the number of “drug offences” complaints, staff would need to scrutinise each complaint record. That being the case, the Trust is unable to comply with your

Chair: Marie Gabriel

Chief Executive: Dr Navina Evans

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.

The Trust does have a “Policy for Dealing with Disposal of Illicit Drugs and Alcohol” which can be found on our website:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/uploads/files/1/Policies%20and%20Procedures/Clinical%20Policies/Disposal%20of%20Illicit%20Drugs%20and%20Alcohol%20version%206%20June%202018.pdf>