

Information Governance
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27 April 2022

Our reference: FOI DA3994

I am responding to your request for information received 12 November 2021. I am sincerely sorry for the delay in responding to your request. 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

Interim Chair: Eileen Taylor

Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus

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Request

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could complete the attached survey questions. The information is being collated in support of an academic research paper which seeks to determine the extent to which the NHS in England utilises automation in managing supply chain Inventory.

The definition of automation includes robotics and artificial intelligence.

Question 1. Is artificial intelligence or robotics used anywhere within the hospital, if so where?

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

Section 21(1) of the FOI Act states:

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

The information requested is accessible here:

https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/anon_response_-_foi_da3859.pdf

Inventory Management:

Question 2. Is artificial intelligence/ automation used within the hospital's inventory management system?

Yes

No

N/A

Other (please specify)

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

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(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

The information requested is accessible here:

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Question 3. If you answered 'Yes' to question 2, what inventory management / automation system is deployed? Please provide the name of the developer or software.

(Please jump to question 6 if you did not answer 'Yes 'to question 2)

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 4. To what extent did automation help during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic (Jan 2020- Dec 2020)?
Extremely useful

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Very useful
Somewhat useful
Not so useful
Not at all useful
Not applicable
Please provide more detail here:

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 5. To what extent did automation help during the Brexit transition period?

Extremely useful
Very useful
Somewhat useful
Not so useful
Not at all useful
Not applicable
Please provide more detail here:

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 6. Were any lessons learnt on improving inventory management as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or Brexit?

Answer: Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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 them.

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a mental health Trust and therefore, we do not have the same inventory requirements as an acute hospital. The Trust does not hold the information requested and is therefore unable to disclose it to you.

Question 7. Where is hospital inventory stored?

Answer: Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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 them.

The Trust does not have one centralised storage facility for hospital inventory. Each hospital stores its own inventory on site. The Trust does not hold the information requested centrally and therefore we are unable to provide this information to you.

Question 8. How is unwanted inventory disposed of?

Answer: Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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*(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 them.*

Each site makes its own arrangements for the disposal of unwanted inventory. This information is not held centrally and therefore we are unable to provide this information to you.

Question 9. May we contact you to learn more about your inventory management system? If yes, please provide an email address and a contact name

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 10. Name of Trust

Answer: East London NHS Foundation Trust.