



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
Robert Dolan House
9 Alie Street
London
E1 8DE

Email elft.foi@nhs.net
Website: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

30 July 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5465

I am responding to your request for information received on 26 June 2024 and clarified on 11 July 2024. 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,

Information Rights 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

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We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:

Question 1: The total number of children under the age of 5 (Compulsory School Age) on your waiting list for speech therapy (including all of those who are yet to receive more than one individual Speech and Language therapy session/assessment)

Clarification: Current number of children under 5 who are yet to be seen by a speech therapist.

Answer: The total number of children currently waiting for a speech and language therapy (SLT) assessment is 444.

Question 2: What parents are required to do before receiving a block of speech therapy sessions (attend a course, etc.)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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 does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 3: What support you provide for children for whom an AAC device is deemed appropriate?

Answer: For children and young people aged 0-19 years of age the complex needs communication speech and language therapy (SLT) team assess for and provide a range of low tech AAC devices to support the development of alternative communication for children. The low tech devices are trialled with children and families both at home and within school settings, overseen and reviewed by the SLT team to see how children develop the usage of these communication devices and systems. Low tech will include core vocabulary boards and i-pads.

Referrals are made to the regional AAC centres for further assessment and for the provision of high tech devices.

Where an AAC device/ system either low tech or high tech are used these will be written into the young person's education health care plan to ensure provision within the school setting and ongoing support from the SLT. The SLT service provides a range of training and support sessions / workshops for parents, and education based staff to ensure knowledge and skills of those supporting young people.

Question 4: How many speech and language therapists (full time equivalent)

Answer: The Trust currently employs 97 Speech and Language therapists, 84.41 FTE.

Question 4a: and how many young people under the age of 18 under your service?

Clarification: I was seeking total number of under 18 who are under SALT currently, in total (not just waitlist).



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Answer: The Trust currently has a total of 2772 patients under the age of 18 in the SALT service.



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