



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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23 January 2025

Our reference: FOI DA5779

I am responding to your request for information received 13 December 2024 and clarified on 16 December 2024. I am 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,

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

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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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:

Question 1: The percentage of sectioned patient in your acute services go AWOL whilst on leave?

Clarification: Time frame would be the last 6 months.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 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 percentage as described in this request and is therefore unable to provide a response.

In an effort to advice and assist, the Trust can disclose that 113 incidents of sectioned patients in acute services going AWOL whilst on leave between 1st July 2024 and 31st December 2024.

Question 2: Also the number of informal patients who go are AWOL?

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.

An informal patient is not detained under the Mental Health Act and does not require leave granted by a doctor to come and go from the ward. Ward staff, however, will at all times be expected to take reasonable steps to assess whether it is safe for an informal patient to leave the ward.



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