



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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23 April 2025

Our reference: FOI DA5893

I am responding to your request for information received 18 February 2025 and clarified on 21 February. 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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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding your Trust's processes to reduce medication waste. Please may you provide me with an answer to the following:

Question 1: Does your Trust have a formal policy on medicines waste reduction? Yes/No

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: Have any sustainability or environmental impact assessments been conducted regarding your Trust's pharmaceutical waste? Yes/No

a) If yes, please provide a brief summary of key findings.

Answer: Yes. Waste, both clinical and non-clinical is audited annually for compliance. This includes pharma waste. A procurement assessment, including environmental impact in the form of CO2 emissions has been carried out relating to all supply chain items within the Trust including pharmaceutical products.

Question 3: Do you currently employ any staff specifically to support medicines waste? Yes/No

a) If yes, how many full time equivalents do you employ?

Answer: No. There is a clinical lead who has 0.5 days per week allocated to all sustainability issues across the Trust which does include the medicines workstream however.

Question 4: How often does your organisation report on the management of waste (including cost) at Board level? Annually/Quarterly/Monthly/Never/Other (please state)

Answer: This is reported every six months via the Infection Prevention Committee. It is also reported every six months via Finance, Business and Investment Committee (FBIC) on all Green Plan matters which includes waste.

Question 5: For each of the hospitals in your Trust, what is the value of medication you have had to waste in the last 2 financial years? This the value of medication that was the property of the hospital at the point it was wasted, i.e. the cost of medication that expired before it could be used.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 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 routinely record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 6: For each hospital in your Trust, what has been your total drug spend over the past two financial years?



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Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 6 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 as our services are not arranged in a way that enables a breakdown by hospital. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response. However, under Section 16(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Trust has a duty to provide advice and assistance to those who propose to make, or have made, requests for information. As a result, to assist, please see below the Trust's spend by directorate.

Directorate	Total spend on Drugs in financial year 2023/24 (£)	Total spend on Drugs in financial year 2024/25 (£)
Bedford Directorate	842,457	922,755
Bedfordshire Community Health Service	29,000	46,142
City & Hackney	665,915	777,814
Corporate	81,312	56,323
Forensic Services	477,000	563,164
Luton Directorate	547,341	642,241
Newham	1,006,614	1,011,188
Newham Community Health Service	83,050	100,991
Primary Care	23,125	96,967
Specialist Community Health Service	78	103
Specialist Services	303,237	348,259
Tower Hamlets	665,422	721,940
Tower Hamlets Community Health Service	32,259	32,904
Grand Total	4,756,810	5,320,791

Question 7: For the last two financial years combined what is the drug that you have wasted the most of, and what was the total cost?

Clarification: By 'wasted,' I mean any of [sic] thrown away, discarded, expired unused?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 7 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 information on drugs wastage as requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.



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Question 8: Have any sustainability or environmental impact assessments been conducted regarding your Trust's pharmaceutical waste? Yes/No

If yes, please provide a brief summary of key findings

Answer: Yes. Waste, both clinical and non-clinical is audited annually for compliance. This includes pharma waste. A procurement assessment, including environmental impact in the form of CO2 emissions has been carried out relating to all supply chain items within the Trust including pharmaceutical products.



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