



**East London**

**NHS Foundation Trust  
Information Governance**

Robert Dolan House  
9 Alie Street  
London  
E1 8DE

**Email** [elft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:elft.foi@nhs.net)

**Website:** <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Our reference: FOI DA5906R**

I am responding to your request for an internal review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025. This was regarding our response on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request.

When an organisation receives a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, it is allowed under the Act to apply a blanket exemption to this where it has concluded that providing a response would take in excess of eighteen hours.

When the cost of compliance and extracting information would exceed eighteen hours, a cost limit of £450 can be applied. This is explained in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and 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 eighteen hours work.

Having reviewed your request, the Trust has noted that it would not be able to provide some of the information requested within the eighteen hours specified in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, in this instance and to assist you, we have provided some information regarding your request as per below.

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.



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

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)

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**Request:**

**I would like to request an internal review; East London FT is the only trust from all the mental health trusts who says it does not collect this information.**

**Can you instead just provide an answer to the amount spent on B&B/hotel accommodation?**

**Answer:**

The Trust has reviewed its previous response and upholds its decision not to disclose this information on the basis of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

To provide further explanation, the Trust has not stated that it does not collect the information, only that it would take in excess of 18 hours to determine if the Trust used any bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation for discharged mental health patients. In order for the Trust to gather all the relevant information necessary to answer your initial request, it would take in excess of 18 hours to confirm if each of the hotel and B&B bookings was made for discharged mental health patients. The issue is the Trust use the same booking system and codes for all hotel / B&B bookings, as such the data requested is not readily available to determine the relevant information. It would need someone to go through each of the bookings and mark against each booking whether each individual was a discharged service user, which would take in excess of 18 hours. Therefore the application of the use of section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is upheld.

To assist, we can provide the total amount the Trust has spent on hotels and B&Bs booked in the UK between January 2024 and December 2024. The total Trust spend was £696,704. This will include discharged patients staying in such accommodation, but will also include costs of other B&B and hotel bookings not used for discharged mental health service users.



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## Original Request DA5906:

**Question 1: Between January 2024 and December 2024 (inclusive) did the trust use any bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation for discharged mental health patients? If so, how many beds?**

**Clarification: include other accommodation such as hotels.**

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

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:  
*Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit*

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information, it would be necessary to review multiple records. This is estimated to take over 18 hours to collate.

**Question 2: What was the reason for using them?**

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

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:  
*Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit*

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information, it would be necessary to review multiple records. This is estimated to take over 18 hours to collate.

However, to assist, please see below for some of the primary reasons why they are used, based around common themes:

- Many individuals are placed in B&Bs while waiting for temporary accommodation (TA) or permanent housing to be arranged. Some have been accepted for supported accommodation but are waiting for repairs, assessments, or move-in dates.
- Individuals rejected for homeless housing or deemed ineligible for local housing support.
- Those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) are awaiting assessments or alternative accommodation options.
- Some individuals have homes but cannot return due to ongoing repairs, lack of utilities (gas/electric), or required deep cleaning.
- Professionals are working to ensure housing conditions are safe before individuals can return.
- Some individuals are awaiting court case outcomes that will determine their ability to return home.
- Others are waiting for benefits confirmation to access housing.
- Individuals unable to return home due to safeguarding concerns (e.g., domestic violence, anti-social behavior).



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**Question 3: During the same period how much was spent in total on B&B accommodation for mental health patients?**

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:  
*Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit*

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information, it would be necessary to review multiple records. This is estimated to take over 18 hours to collate.



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