



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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19 May 2025

Our reference: FOI DA5967

I am responding to your request for information received 26 March 2025. 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.

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 all 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 a partial response to your request as per below.

In order to assist you with your request, I have advised below the timing each question would take to help you to refine your request. If you wish to refine your request to comply with the eighteen hour time limit, please do get in touch.

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



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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

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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Request: Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff) infections and other infectious diseases within your NHS Trust:

Question 1: The total number of reported C. diff infections within your Trust for each of the past five calendar years (2020–2024).

Answer: 0.

Question 2: A breakdown of C. diff cases by hospital site (if applicable) for each of the past five years.

Answer: 0.

Question 3: The total number of extra bed days associated with C. diff infections in each of the past five years.

Answer: 0.

Question 4: The total number of C. diff diagnostic tests (and cost per test) performed annually from 2020 to 2024.

Answer: Two tests per calendar year were performed from 2020 to 2024.

Concerning the remainder of your request, the Trust has reviewed question 4 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 cost per C. diff diagnostic test as all microbiological testing is contracted out externally. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 5: The total number of negative C. diff test results recorded in each of the past five years.

Answer: 0.

Question 6: The estimated annual financial impact or cost to your Trust associated with C. diff infections, including treatment and extended hospital stays.

Answer: 0.

Question 7: The top five most commonly reported infectious diseases within your Trust for each year from 2020 to 2024.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 7 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



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

However, in an effort to be helpful, the Trust can report that the top five most commonly reported infectious diseases in 2024 were:

- COVID-19
- Scabies
- Headlice
- D&V
- Bedbugs



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