



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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20 May 2025

Our reference: FOI DA5975

I am responding to your request for information received 1 April 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.

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: Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I kindly request the following information regarding Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) administered by your trust over the past 10 years:

Adverse Effects Reporting:

Question 1: The number of patients who have reported memory loss or cognitive impairment following ECT treatment.

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 information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.*

*The known risk is that individuals may report losing specific memories while their memory remains intact in other respects. Collecting this type of information would need to take place under research conditions, as there are numerous unrelated factors that could affect a person's memory or cognition, such as post-ECT effects, stroke, an existing dementia process, depression, delirium, substance misuse, or the normal aging process. Individuals may also be discharged from our service back to their GP, where such issues could be identified, but we would not have a record of this. From the service's perspective, it is not possible for us to answer this question definitively.

Question 2: The total number of complaints received from patients or their families concerning adverse effects of ECT.

Answer: Zero.

Clinical Evaluations:

Question 3: Details of any internal studies or reviews conducted by your trust assessing the long-term effects of ECT on patients.

Answer: There have been no research studies on ECT in which ELFT has participated, and no service evaluations have been registered with the Research and Innovation (R&I) department.

Financial Aspects:

Question 4: The average cost incurred by your trust for administering a single ECT session.

Answer: 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:

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(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record this level of detail for our ECT session costs and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Treatment Statistics:

Question 5: The annual number of patients who have received ECT treatment, broken down by year.

Answer: Please see table below:

Year	Number of patients to have received ECT treatment
2017	34
2018	56
2019	52
2020	41
2021	20
2022	37
2023	35
2024	39
2025 until 15/04/2025	21

Please note: the Trust can only provide statistics from the last eight years from 01/01/2017 to 15/04/2025— the furthest point for which data is available.

Service Provision:

Question 6: A list of hospitals and mental health facilities within your trust currently administering ECT.

Answer: In East London – Tower Hamlets Electroconvulsive Therapy Service

The ECT service sits under the Tower Hamlets Mental Health directorate but covers the three London Boroughs (City & Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets).

In Bedfordshire and Luton - the ECT Suite. Calnwood Road. Luton.



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