



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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

14 May 2025

Our reference: FOI DA5996

I am responding to your request for information received 10 April 2025 and clarified on 22 April. 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: In the current challenging times in the NHS, I would like to understand the cost of the public accountability provided by Councils of Governors in NHS Foundation Trusts.

Can you please advise:

Question 1: The size of your Trust by turnover

Clarification: Please use the information from your most recently published annual report.

Answer: The Trust's Turnover for 2023/24 was £693,344,000.00.

The Trust's latest Annual Report is published here:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/2023-2024%20ELFT%20Annual%20Report%20%26%20Accounts.pdf>

Question 2: The size of your Council of Governors, total number of governors split by appointed, public and staff

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

Section 21(1) of the FOI Act states:

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

The information requested is accessible here:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/get-involved/council-governors/meet-council-governors>

Question 3: The cost of support provided to the Council, annually – the number of staff providing that support and their role/banding, estimated hours and cost for each member of staff, subdivided into induction and training; support to Council meetings and committees/working groups in delivery of their statutory responsibilities including preparation of papers; membership engagement

Answer: The Trust has three full time team members in the Governors & Members Office as follows:

Staff Role	Corporate Governance Manager	Membership Officer	Community Engagement Manager
a. Staff Band	8a	6	6
b. Estimated hours	Approximately 60% of time (22.5 hrs) spent on supporting the Council of Governors, as well as individual governors.	Approximately 20% of time (7.5 hrs) is spent on the Council of Governors, mainly in preparation and support of Council of Governor meetings.	50% of time (18.75 hrs) is spent on supporting the Council of Governors in its role of representing the views of members and the wider public.
c. Total Cost of support	£94,648.00 per annum.		



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Breakdown of costs by responsibilities.	<p>The Trust has reviewed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.</p> <p>Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:</p> <p><i>Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—</i></p> <p><i>(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and</i></p> <p><i>(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.</i></p> <p>East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested as timesheets are not used to record the breakdown of roles into distinct activities and associated costs. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.</p>
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Question 4: Frequency of elections to the Council.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 21(1) of the FOI Act states:

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

The information requested is accessible here:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/get-involved/council-governors/council-governors-elections>



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