



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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23 June 2025

Our reference: FOI DA6010

I am responding to your request for information received 17 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.

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.

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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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
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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: This is an information request relating to NHS Trusts buying and supplying Paracetamol and ibuprofen.

Please include the following information for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:

Question 1: The total number of individual patients to whom paracetamol and ibuprofen were prescribed by your Trust annually.

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 records on the clinical system for each drug over three financial years. This is estimated to take 3 hours to collate.

Question 2: The total amount spent by your Trust on supplying prescribed paracetamol and Ibuprofen in each of those financial years.

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 records across multiple clinical systems for each drug over three financial years. This is estimated to take 4.5 hours to collate.

Question 3: If available, a breakdown of the form in which paracetamol was prescribed (e.g., tablets, capsules, liquid suspension, etc.) and associated costs for each form.

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 records across multiple clinical systems for each drug over three financial years. This is estimated to take over 12 hours to collate in collaboration with the Trust's finance team.

Question 4: What are the specific conditions which qualify a patient to be prescribed paracetamol or ibuprofen? Or what is your general policy for qualifying a prescription for paracetamol or ibuprofen?



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

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.



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