



**East London**  
**NHS Foundation Trust**  
**Information Governance**  
Robert Dolan House  
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London  
E1 8DE

**Email** [elft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:elft.foi@nhs.net)  
**Website:** <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

**Our reference: FOI DA6132**

I am responding to your request for information received 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025. I'm 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,

FOI Team

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)

**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:

To clarify, this is a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am not seeking access to [REDACTED] clinical or personal medical records. The request relates solely to internal communications held by ELFT staff and services, particularly those referencing me [REDACTED] or referring to me in the role of [REDACTED]. This includes references whether made by name, relationship, role, or other descriptive identifiers.

As this request pertains to non-personal information held by a public authority, there is no requirement for identity verification, third-party consent, or NHS number disclosure. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is clear that requests of this nature—where a public body's staff refer to an individual in their capacity as a service user's representative or complainant—are appropriately handled under FOI, with redactions applied only to protect third-party personal data where necessary.

Please proceed to process this request within the statutory timeframe. Should you still believe this cannot be handled under FOI, I request a formal refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act, citing the specific exemption(s) being applied and outlining your internal review procedure.

I am writing to request an internal review regarding my Freedom of Information request submitted on 25th May 2025.

As the data subject, I am entitled to view any data relating to myself. Furthermore, as this safeguarding referral and its contents were shared externally with [REDACTED], it cannot be withheld under any internal deliberation exemption.

I wish to note that this is not the first data compliance issue I have experienced with ELFT. I currently have a separate complaint open with the ICO regarding failures to comply with Subject Access Request obligations. If no response or refusal notice is received within the required timeframe for this FOI review, I will be escalating this matter to the ICO for enforcement.

Please also be aware that I will be using this continued pattern of non-compliance and unlawful obstruction as further evidence in my ongoing complaints regarding ELFT's governance and data handling practices.



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**Question 1:** As outlined in my clarification on 28th May, this request is for non-personal information held by ELFT relating to myself [REDACTED] in my role as [REDACTED]. No personal medical data of [REDACTED] was requested. Therefore, the statutory 20 working day timeframe has now expired without a response or formal refusal notice.

For clarity, I have reason to believe ELFT holds:

- Redacted clinical notes containing comments about me
- Internal communications and decision-making records related to the safeguarding referral made [REDACTED] on 21st May

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

*(1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.*

The information you have requested is considered exempt under section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, which states that any information which constitutes personal data of which you are the data subject is also considered exempt. The Trust has therefore applied a section 40 exemption to your request.

Whilst you state that the information requested is not personal data, the Trust considers this to be incorrect as the information requested is personal data relating to a safeguarding referral concerning yourself, together with other personal information, that if released into the public domain would identify yourself and by default, your partner. Furthermore, disclosure of that data in a redacted form would still have the potential to identify yourself.

Should you require personal information concerning yourself, please submit a Subject Access Request under the Data Protection Act 2018 to [elft.accesstorecords@nhs.net](mailto:elft.accesstorecords@nhs.net), who will then be able to process such a request.



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