



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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London

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

23 July 2025

Our reference: FOI DA6115

I am responding to your request for information received 23 June 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: We request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid in within 30 days for the period starting 1 April 2019 to the date of this request:

1. **Supplier Name**
2. **Invoice Date**
3. **Gross Invoice Value**
4. **Payment Date**

Answer: 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.

When the Trust identifies that the request is likely to take over 18 hours, we are not obliged to provide information for any part of the request. We are required to provide advice on how you may refine your request to information that can be collated within the 18 hour timeframe. You may then choose what information you would like to receive and confirm the same to us, upon which we will process your request.

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and informs you that Invoices can be delayed for payment for a number of reasons; submission delays by the vendor, problems with supplier invoices and disputes over charges.

In order to collate this information, staff would have to scrutinise each invoice individually and determine whether or not there has been a delayed payment with each invoice. This would take staff over the 18-hour cost limit as there may be several thousand invoices each year.

In an effort to be helpful, we refer you to summaries of information that are available in the Annual Accounts. These show the total invoices paid, those paid within target and the percentage of those invoices paid within target.

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:

Financial year 2023/24 - (page 198)

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

Financial year 2022/23 - (page 229)

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/2022-2023%20Annual%20Report%20%26%20Accounts%20FINAL%20%281%29.pdf>

Financial year 2021/22 - (page 213)

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/East%20London%20NHSFT%20Annual%20Report%20and%20Accounts%202021-2022%20FINAL%20%28for%20publication%29.pdf>

Financial year 2020/21 (page 187)



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https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/ELFT%20Annual%20Report%20and%20Accounts%202020-2021_0.pdf

Financial year 2019/20 (page 148)

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/ELFT%20Annual%20Report%20and%20Accounts%202019-2020.pdf>

Question 5: Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)

Answer: Zero.



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