



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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01 July 2025

Our reference: FOI DA6127

I am responding to your request for information received 27 June 2025. 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



We promise to work together creatively to: learn 'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning the handling and storage of deceased persons at your hospital's mortuary.
This request is being made to all NHS hospitals with mortuary facilities located in the UK. I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for your hospital for the most recent 24-month period available:

Question 1: The average length of time deceased individuals are kept in your hospital mortuary prior to release for burial or cremation.

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 is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide mortuary facilities. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: The minimum and maximum duration any deceased individual was retained in your mortuary during that period.

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

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Question 3: The total number of deceased released from your mortuary, broken down by:

- **Online funeral directors (those primarily operating through online platforms)**
- **Local/traditional funeral directors (those with a physical local pres**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3 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—
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Question 4: The average duration of stay in your mortuary for deceased individuals handled by:

- **Online funeral directors**
- **Local funeral directors**

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:

Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
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Question 5: The total number of requests for jewellery to be removed, broken down by:

- **Online funeral directors (those primarily operating through online platforms)**
- **Local/traditional funeral directors (those with a physical local presence)**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 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—
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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.

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Question 6: The total number of requests for the deceased to be dressed for viewing in the mortuary, broken down by:

- **Online funeral directors (those primarily operating through online platforms)**
- **Local/traditional funeral directors (those with a physical local presence)**

If applicable, I would also appreciate it if you could share any internal protocols or policy documents regarding the standard retention period for deceased individuals in your care.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 6 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—
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