



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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12 August 2025

Our reference: FOI DA6186

I am responding to your request for information received 4 August 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



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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

Question 1: Does your trust have dedicated virology laboratories, or are diagnostic tests for viral infections conducted in microbiology laboratories?

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 Microbiology or Virology services. Furthermore, tests for infectious diseases are conducted at Barts and Bedfordshire Hospital labs and these Trusts would be in a position to process such a request. (foi.bartshealth@nhs.net & FOI@bedsft.nhs.uk). The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: Do you provide clinical advice to more than 1 trust? If so, does that include onsite availability and how many trusts, hospitals, health boards, and organisations?

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: Is your trust responsible and/or do they cover any other laboratory, if so, how many laboratories?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 4: What type of lab setup does your organisation currently use?

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

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Question 5: Approximately how many tests have you received yearly for swabs, blood, urine & stools in the last 5 years for MM, MVIR & ID?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 6: As a medical microbiologist / medical virologist accredited in infectious diseases, do you provide inpatient care?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 6 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 7: How many of your working hours are spent between the listed work areas, per week?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 7 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 8: How many microbiologists also do virology workload

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 8 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 9: Does the service cover the listed out-of-hours (inpatient or other)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 9 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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