



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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01 September 2025

Our reference: FOI DA6185

I am responding to your request for information received 1 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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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting aggregate information regarding services provided or commissioned by your Trust in relation to peripheral neuropathic pain (PNP), with a specific focus on:

- Post-surgical neuropathic pain (PSNP)
- Cancer-related neuropathic pain (CRNP)
- Painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN)

Please break down the information by individual service, clinic, and by hospital site.

Question 1: Patient Numbers & Treatment Modalities (Last 12 Months)
For each hospital site or service, please provide:

The number of patients seen for each of the following conditions:

- PSNP
- CRNP (please split into surgically induced and chemotherapy-induced)
- PDPN
- Please also break this down by hospital department.

Answer: Zero patients were seen for Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy (PDPN).

Treatment Modalities

For each hospital site or service, please indicate Yes or No as to whether the following treatment modalities are available for PNP. Where stated yes please provide patient numbers for the latest 12-month period. If exact numbers are unavailable, proxy data is acceptable (e.g., the percentage of neuropathic pain patients receiving each treatment modality).

- **Gabapentin prescriptions**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed 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.

- **Botulinum toxin (Botox) injections**
- **TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation)**
- **Acupuncture (including PENS – Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation)**
- **Theatre-based nerve stimulation procedures (e.g., spinal cord stimulators or other implanted/surgical neuromodulation devices)**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed 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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- (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 Botulinum toxin (Botox) injections, TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation), Acupuncture (including PENS – Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) or Theatre-based nerve stimulation procedure (e.g., spinal cord stimulators or other implanted/surgical neuromodulation devices) services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: Service Provision

Does your Trust or provider offer specific or dedicated services for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN?

Answer: No.

- If yes, please list each relevant service or site (e.g., pain clinic, neurology clinic, diabetic foot clinic, community pain service) along with their addresses.

For each listed site or service, please indicate:

- The types of healthcare professionals routinely involved (e.g., pain specialists, neurologists, specialist nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists)
- The number of staff per role (headcount or FTE if available)

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 3: Referral Pathways & Service Specifications

Are there established care pathways, referral criteria, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN?

- If yes, please supply relevant documents or summaries.
- If not, please clarify whether these conditions fall under broader chronic pain, MSK, diabetes, or oncology pathways.

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:

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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 4: Clinical Guidelines, Protocols, Strategic Plans

Has the Trust developed or contributed to any strategic plans, business cases, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN?

- If so, please provide relevant documents, including any timelines and associated funding information.

Are there any specific clinical guidelines, care pathways, or treatment protocols in use? For example:

- NICE CG173
- NEUPSIG



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- **Local pathways for diabetes- or oncology-related neuropathy**
- **If yes, please provide copies or summaries of key components.**

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: Funding & Budgets

What was the total expenditure on neuropathic pain services in the most recent full financial year?

- If no specific figure is available, please provide overall pain management funding and any known distribution (e.g., primary/community vs secondary care).

- Please indicate the type of funding, e.g. tariff or block contract

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:

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Question 6: Planned or Recent Service Changes

Are there any recent, ongoing, or planned changes to:

- Commissioning arrangements

- Referral pathways

- Service structure

- Clinical treatment options for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN?

If yes, please provide details, including the relevant sites, timelines, and the rationale for these changes.

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

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