



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
Robert Dolan House
9 Alie Street
London
E1 8DE

Email elft.foi@nhs.net
Website: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

22 October 2025

Our reference: FOI DA6320

I am responding to your request for information received 20 October 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 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information relating to surgical delays caused by equipment or instrument availability within your Trust.
This request aims to understand how logistical and operational factors — rather than clinical causes — may contribute to surgery scheduling challenges across the NHS.
Please provide data for 2024, and any available for 2025 to date for the following:

Surgical delays

Question 1: The number of operations delayed or cancelled where the recorded cause included:

- Missing or incomplete surgical instrument sets
- Late arrival of loan sets or consignment trays from suppliers
- Equipment or instrument sterilisation or cleaning faults
- Missing documentation, instructions for use (IFUs), or traceability records

If your Trust does not record these categories specifically, please provide the nearest equivalent data (e.g. “equipment failure,” “instrument availability,” or “theatre preparation delays”).

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 surgical services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Delay duration

Question 2: Where available, please provide the average or total delay time (e.g. hours or days) attributed to these causes.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2 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 surgical services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Reporting system

Question 3: If available, please confirm which system(s) your Trust uses to record and categorise surgical delays (e.g. Datix, ORMIS, Bluesprier, or another).



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

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—
(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 surgical services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Internal reports

Question 4: If available, please share any summaries, reports, or audits produced since 2023 that discuss equipment-related surgical delays, loan set management, or theatre efficiency

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—
(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 surgical services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.



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