



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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4 November 2025

Our reference: FOI DA6160

I am responding to your request for information received 21 July 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.

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.



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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

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: Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information from the trust from the last five financial years:

Please can the information be broken down by year, for the last five financial years (2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25)

Please limit the search to just those where the bills for the recruitment were paid in any of the last five financial years.

Question 1: The number of staff who were sent to a foreign country to facilitate recruitment drives (to address shortages as set out as part of the NHS Long Term Plan).

Answer: Please see table below:

| Financial Year | Number of staff sent to a foreign country to facilitate recruitment drives |
|----------------|--|
| 2020/21 | 0 |
| 2021/22 | 0 |
| 2022/23 | 7 |
| 2023/24 | 3 |
| 2024/25 | 2 |

Question 2: The total cost to the trust of each recruitment drive exercise including flights and accommodation.

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

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

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information it would be necessary to review thousands of payments, which includes but is not limited to purchase cards, in the relevant time periods. It would then be necessary to review each statement, including purchase card statements, to verify each of the relevant payments. Such a process is estimated to take over 18 hours to conduct.

Question 3: The city and country that were visited as part of the exercise

Answer: Please see table below:

| Financial Year | City and country visited by staff for recruitment drive |
|----------------|---|
| 2020/21 | N/A |
| 2021/22 | N/A |
| 2022/23 | Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| 2023/24 | Colombo, Sri Lanka |
| 2024/25 | Colombo, Sri Lanka |

Question 4: The type of staff it was hoped would be recruited

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 does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.



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