



**East London**  
NHS Foundation Trust  
**Information Governance**  
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7 November 2025

**Our reference: FOI DA6351**

I am responding to your request for information received 6 November 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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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:** I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the storage of brain tumours.

**Question 1:** Does your Trust hold a record or inventory of medical-grade freezer units used for the storage of biological, histopathology, research, or biobanking tissue samples?

**A.** If yes, please provide the (a) number of units and (b) storage temperature category (for example -20°C, -80°C)

**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 cancer treatment services nor do we use freezers for storing biological tissue as requested. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 2:** Are any of these freezer units currently used for the rapid freezing and/or long-term storage of brain tissue samples?

**A.** If yes, please state (a) the number of units used for brain tissue and (b) the typical storage temperature used.

**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 cancer treatment services nor do we use freezers for storing biological tissue as requested. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 3:** Regardless of current use, does the Trust have freezer units capable of supporting fresh- or flash- frozen brain tissue storage that is suitable for therapeutic development.

**A.** Does the Trust currently have access to rapid freezing equipment suitable for brain tissue?

**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 cancer treatment



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services nor do we use freezers for storing biological tissue as requested. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 4: Only if feasible within the FOI time and cost limit, please indicate whether any existing freezer unit in the Trust could be repurposed or shared between departments to enable brain tissue storage or expand current capacity.**

**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.*

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