

31st December 2025

Our reference: FOI DA6375

I am responding to your request for information received 2nd December 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,

FOI Team

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



Request: **Delays in Admission Under the Mental Health Act**
If possible, please only include data from Bedfordshire. If that is not possible, whole trust data is acceptable.

Question 1: The number of occasions where a person was assessed as requiring detention under the Mental Health Act and admission to an inpatient bed but could not be admitted immediately because no bed was available.
Please provide the following information, broken down for the period financial year 2023/24 2024/5 and 2025/6 so far (please give date up to which it is measured in 25/6):
(Bedfordshire Data Only)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of 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.

The service started keeping data on bed delays in June 2025. In order to provide the information requested from before June 2025, 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.

Section 16(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

Section 16 (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Trust has a duty to provide a reasonable level of advice and assistance. As such, the Trust can disclose the following information to assist you with your request.

For the period from 1st June 2025 – 30th November 2025, ten service users could not be admitted immediately because no bed was available.

Question 2: For each occasion, if recorded:

- **The length of delay before a bed became available.**
- **Where the individual stayed during the delay (please categorise where possible, e.g.):**
 - Police custody suit
 - Home address with family
 - Home address alone
 - Homeless/no fixed abode
 - Other (please specify)

Please provide the following information, broken down for the period financial year 2023/24 2024/5 and 2025/6 so far (please give date up to which it is measured in 25/6):

number of occasions where a person was assessed as requiring detention under the Mental Health Act and admission to an inpatient bed but could not be admitted immediately because no bed was available.
(Bedfordshire Data Only)



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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2 of 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.

The service started keeping data on bed delays in June 2025. In order to provide the information requested from before June 2025, 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.

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Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Trust has a duty to provide a reasonable level of advice and assistance. As such, the Trust can disclose the following information to assist you with your request.

Length of delay before bed became available (June 2025 – November 2025)

- One day - Three occasions
- Two days - Two occasions
- Three days - Two occasions
- Six days - Two occasions
- Nine days - One occasion

Where the individual stayed during the delay (June 2025 – November 2025)

- Home address with family – Five occasions
- Home address alone - Three occasions
- Supported Accommodation - One occasion
- Police Custody Suite - One occasion

Question 3: Any data you hold on the reasons for delay (e.g., bed occupancy, out-of-area placement).

Please provide the following information, broken down for the period financial year 2023/24 2024/5 and 2025/6 so far (please give date up to which it is measured in 25/6):

number of occasions where a person was assessed as requiring detention under the Mental Health Act and admission to an inpatient bed but could not be admitted immediately because no bed was available.
(Bedfordshire Data Only)

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.*



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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: Please break this data down into both adult and CAMHS services where they are provided.

Please provide the following information, broken down for the period financial year 2023/24 2024/5 and 2025/6 so far (please give date up to which it is measured in 25/6):

number of occasions where a person was assessed as requiring detention under the Mental Health Act and admission to an inpatient bed but could not be admitted immediately because no bed was available.
(Bedfordshire Data Only)

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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