



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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16th February 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6312

We are responding to your request for information received 15th October 2025. We are sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact us 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

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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:**General sickness absence from 2020-2025:****Question 1: The total number of staff sickness absence days taken each year, broken down by year from 2020-2025.**

Answer: 2020 – 63,986 days
 2021 – 87,968 days
 2022 – 10,4662 days
 2023 – 124,544 days
 2024 – 140,424 days
 2025 – 157,482 days

Categorisation of sickness absence:**Question 2: Does your organisation code sickness absences by specific category or reason (e.g. 'mental health', 'burnout', 'flu', 'musculoskeletal issues')?**

Answer: Yes.

a) If yes, please provide the breakdown for each recorded sickness category for each year in the five-year period (2020-2025).

Answer: Please see table below

Sickness Reason	Calendar year						Grand Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
S10 Anxiety/ stress/ depression /other psychiatric illnesses	17902	27091	28383	30954	44511	46190	195031
S11 Back Problems	3928	5113	4930	6589	7237	5864	33661
S12 Other musculoskeletal problems	5716	8584	8037	10681	9282	12969	55269
S13 Cold, Cough, Flu - Influenza	7291	8850	11978	15129	17839	15935	77022
S14 Asthma	264	513	76	496	448	244	2041
S15 Chest & respiratory problems	2283	3252	3971	3590	5425	5935	24456
S16 Headache / migraine	3116	3824	3960	4033	5199	5796	25928
S17 Benign and malignant tumours, cancers	1919	1899	3712	4016	4326	5203	21075
S18 Blood disorders	646	415	813	834	387	682	3777
S19 Heart, cardiac & circulatory problems	1522	2517	2625	3761	4753	6914	22092
S20 Burns, poisoning, frostbite, hypothermia	196	190	43	158	97	91	775
S21 Ear, nose, throat (ENT)	1214	1926	1795	2167	2989	1551	11642
S22 Dental and oral problems	533	458	723	682	761	960	4117
S23 Eye problems	1435	1458	1916	1300	841	1195	8145
S24 Endocrine / glandular problems	324	441	623	1339	1225	1411	5363
S25 Gastrointestinal problems	4385	5474	6651	7852	7222	8613	40197
S26 Genitourinary & gynaecological disorders	1796	3188	3318	4240	3174	3561	19277
S27 Infectious diseases	454	883	3797	9378	5892	2399	22803
S28 Injury, fracture	4513	5080	5965	7249	6545	6823	36175
S29 Nervous system disorders	582	593	2494	1124	1127	1083	7003
S30 Pregnancy related disorders	2370	2941	2982	4143	3728	3559	19723



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S31 Skin disorders	446	784	698	633	842	1479	4882
S32 Substance abuse	152	348			2	7	509
S98 Other known causes - not elsewhere classified	782	1651	4733	958	231	10240	18595
S99 Unknown causes / Not specified	217	495	439	3238	6341	2222	12952
Grand Total	63986	87968	104662	124544	140424	150926	672510

b) If such categorisations have changed over time, please indicate when changes to categories or coding were implemented.

Answer Not applicable

Locum and agency staff usage from 2020-2025:

Question 3: The total number of locum or agency staff engaged in each year of the five-year period (2020-2025).

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.*

The Trust did not record data prior to 2023 and is therefore unable to provide a response for the years 2020 – 2023.

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.

The Trust is able to provide the total number of locum or agency staff engaged for 2023 onwards as below:

- January 2023- December 2023 - No record of non-medical; 175 - (medical/admin/AHP).
- January 2024 to December 2024: 104 – non-medical; 338 - (medical/admin/AHP)
- January 2025 to November 2025 : 84 – non-medical; 125 - (medical/admin/AHP)



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a) If records permit, please detail the total expenditure on locum or agency staff for each year.

Answer:

Calendar year	Total expenditure on locum or agency staff (£)
2020	25,617,732.34
2021	30,079,406.37
2022	29,565,408.76
2023	33,071,722.35
2024	25,396,318.07
2025	9,448,549.76

b) If possible, please indicate whether the use of locum/agency staff was linked to covering staff sickness absences.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3b 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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