



East London

**NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance**

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Website: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

17th April 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6391

We are responding to your request for information received 11th December 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.

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.

In order to assist you with your request, we have advised below the timing each question would take to help you to refine your request. If you wish to refine your request to comply with the eighteen hour time limit, please do get in touch.

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.



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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: Acupuncture Services

Question 1: Does your Trust currently provide or commission acupuncture treatments or acupuncture services? If so, please provide a copy of your policy, including on what evidence acupuncture is provided.

Answer Yes the Trust does provide acupuncture services. Please see appendix one for a copy of the Acupuncture safe working guidelines.

Question 2: For each of the last five fiscal years (2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25), please provide:
a)The amount spent on the provision or commissioning of acupuncture services or treatments
b)The number of patients seen by these services

Year	Amount Spent	Number of patients
2020/21		
2021/22		
2022/23		
2023/24		
2024/25		

Answer

Year	Amount Spent	Number of patients
2020/21	*	0
2021/22	*	2
2022/23	*	123
2023/24	*	721
2024/25	*	1153

* 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



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The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information in relation to the amount spent, it would be necessary to review each acupuncture patient manually and calculate cost. This would take in excess of 18 hours to calculate and collate.

Question 3: Do you currently have a contract in place with any provider for the provision of acupuncture services? If so, please provide a copy of the contract.

Answer No contracts in place.

Question 4: Which external organisations, charities or companies (eg the Sam Buxton Sunflower Healing Trust) have you contracted or engaged with over the provision of acupuncture services in the five fiscal years? Please include copies of any promotional materials, advertising materials or other documentation provided by the external organisation as part of this engagement

Answer: Not applicable as the Trust has not contracted or engaged with any such parties over the provision of acupuncture services in the last five fiscal years.



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