



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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21st May 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6455

We are responding to your request for information received 27th January 2026. 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 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



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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:

I request the following information for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25

Question 1: The total number of patient episodes (e.g., emergency, inpatient, outpatient) recorded in your trust's systems where the patient was flagged as an asylum seeker or exempt from charging due to asylum/refugee status for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25

Answer: Please see table below:

Financial Year	Total number inpatient admissions of those who were exempt from charging due to asylum / refugee status
2022/2023	27
2023/2024	226
2024/2025	233

Question 2: Total NHS expenditure associated with total number of patient episodes (e.g., emergency, inpatient, outpatient) recorded in your trust's systems where the patient was flagged as an asylum seeker or exempt from charging due to asylum/refugee status, by category where available (e.g., by service type such as A&E, inpatient, outpatient, prescriptions, maternity) for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

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

Question 3: Whether your trust records immigration status or charging exemption codes that can distinguish asylum seekers from other charging exemption categories for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Answer: The Trust uses Overseas Visitors Category codes (OVCC) based on category A-P where required. This distinguishes the various exemption categories. This started in 23/24.

For more information, please see:
https://archive.datadictionary.nhs.uk/DD%20Release%20May%202024/data/elements/overseas_visitor_charging_category.html



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