



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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22nd May 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6485

We are responding to your request for information received 17^h February 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 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

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:

Question 1: Does East London Foundation Trust have a legal service team? If so, how is the legal service team structured? If not, why does East London Foundation Trust not have a legal services team?

Answer: Yes - the following roles form the Legal team structure:

Director of Legal Affairs
Trust Solicitor x3
Claims Manager
Paralegal x 2
Legal Admin

Question 2: If East London Foundation Trust have a legal services team, is there a reason it is structured this way? Would East London Foundation Trust consider expanding the legal services team? Is East London Foundation Trust expanding their legal team? If they are, what role are the recruiting?

Answer: The Legal Team are not expanding at the moment. They are currently going through a process of assessing if the existing structure works.

Question 3: Does East London Foundation Trust use inhouse legal services or contract legal advisors/solicitors externally?

Answer: Both.

Why has East London Foundation Trust chosen to use inhouse legal services or contract legal advisors/solicitors externally?

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

Question 4: Does East London Foundation Trust regularly or annually review and learn from the claims that they receive and the inquests that are requested? If so, what department is this information shared with? Is this information shared with the Board?

Answer: Yes. It reports to the Quality Assurance Committee on a yearly basis.



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Question 5: How does East London Foundation Trust report on the legal services they provide, such as claims against East London Foundation Trust, inquests, and spending on legal advice? Does East London Foundation Trust regularly report information on legal services activity to a particular committee or team? If so, how often? If so, what information is reported on the legal services that are provided by East London Foundation Trust, to other committees or groups within the Trust?

Answer: The legal team reports on Claims to the Quality Assurance Committee, Inquests are reported by the Risk and Governance Team to the Quality Assurance committee. Legal spend is reported to NHS England in its annual benchmarking exercise and includes all services within the Trust that use legal services.

Claims activity is reported to the Quality Assurance Committee once a year. This includes information including:

- The total number of claims across the Trust
- The number of claims opened and closed in the last financial year
- The approximate value of open claims by Directorate
- The actual value of closed claims by Directorate
- The most expensive claim- ongoing or closed
- The most common incident type with the highest level of claims
- Emerging themes that have dominated claims
- Suggestions of learning to be disseminated across the Trust

Inquests:

A quarterly report is created the Learning from Deaths Panel and the Quality Assurance Committee, including Non-Executive Directors. This includes the number of inquests closed during that quarter and the coroners verdicts .

There are also annual reports for the Learning from Deaths Panel and the Quality Assurance Committee



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