



**East London**

**NHS Foundation Trust  
Information Governance**

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26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Our reference: FOI DA6493**

We are responding to your request for information received 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026. 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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**We care . We respect . We are inclusive**

**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](http://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 your organisation currently record risks relating to damaged, exposed, or poorly managed electrical cabling on devices on its corporate or divisional risk register?**

**Answer:** ELFT does not hold a single, specific risk entry solely relating to trailing electrical cabling.

Risks associated with electrical safety, including damaged or poorly managed cabling, are managed within broader estates, facilities and health and safety risk frameworks where identified. These may be recorded locally on divisional or site risk registers where appropriate.

**Question 2: Has your organisation undertaken any formal risk assessment in the last 3 years relating to:**

- **Trailing cables**
- **Cable trip hazards**
- **Cable damage from beds, trolleys, or wheeled equipment?**

**Answer:** ELFT has not undertaken a standalone Trust-wide formal risk assessment solely focused on trailing electrical cabling.

However, risks relating to trailing cables, trip hazards and potential cable damage are considered as part of routine workplace risk assessments, estates compliance regimes, portable appliance testing, and clinical environment inspections carried out by estates, facilities and clinical teams

**Question 3: Please provide copies (redacted if necessary) of any policies or procedures addressing the management or protection of electrical cabling in clinical environments.**

**Answer:** ELFT does not hold a specific standalone policy dedicated solely to electrical cable management in clinical environments

Controls relating to electrical cabling are embedded within existing documentation, including:

- Portable appliance testing (PAT) procedures
- Fixed wire testing and inspection regimes (EICR)
- Health and safety inspection processes
- Incident reporting and risk management procedures

**Question 4: Please provide the number of recorded incidents in the last 5 years involving damage to electrical cables in clinical areas.**

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 4 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, it would be necessary to review each incident from this period as there is no incident category for cable damage on the incident reporting system. This is estimated to take over 18 hours.

**Question 5: Please provide anonymised summaries of incidents where cable damage resulted in:**

- **Service interruption**
- **Equipment failure**
- **Patient safety risk**
- **Fire or overheating risk**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 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*

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information, it would be necessary to review each incident from this period as there is no incident category for cable damage on the incident reporting system. This is estimated to take over 18 hours.

**Question 6: Please confirm how many incidents involving damaged electrical cables were reported to external regulators (e.g., HSE) within the past 5 years.**

Answer The Trust has reviewed question 6 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*

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information, it would be necessary to review each incident from this period as there is no incident category for cable damage on the incident reporting system. This is estimated to take over 18 hours.

**Question 7: Does your organisation currently use any cable management or cable protection products in clinical areas (e.g., floor cable covers, bed-mounted cable organisers, retractable systems)?**

**If yes, please specify:**

- **Type of product**
- **Manufacturer (if recorded)**
- **Areas where deployed**

Answer The Trust has reviewed question 7 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, it would be necessary to review each individual product used as ELFT does not maintain a central inventory of specific cable management products or manufacturers. This is estimated to take over 18 hours.

**Question 8: Are there any current or planned initiatives to reduce risks associated with trailing or damaged electrical cables?**

**Answer** Risks associated with trailing electrical cabling are managed through ongoing estates and health and safety processes, including:

- Routine portable appliance testing (PAT)
- Fixed wire inspection and testing
- Planned preventative maintenance regimes
- Regular staff workplace inspections
- Incident reporting and learning processes

These arrangements provide continual monitoring and mitigation of risks associated with damaged or trailing cables within clinical environments.



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