



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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

18th August 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6644

We are responding to your request for information received 4th June 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: Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to the supply and availability of aspirin (all licensed doses used therapeutically) within your Trust.

Question 1: Current Stock and Usage

- a) What is the current stock level of aspirin held by your Trust (by number of tablets and number of packs)?
- b) What is your Trust's monthly dispensing or usage volume of aspirin since May 2025 to present?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

The Trust has reviewed your question as a request for information and is applying section 43 of the FOI Act. Section 43 exemption applies to commercial interests. As this is a qualified exemption, the public interest in withholding the information should outweigh the public interest in disclosure. The Trust has applied the public interest test and in this instance believes disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust by revealing information relating to procurement and stock management arrangements and should therefore be withheld. The Trust is therefore unable to provide you a response.

Question 2: Supply Disruption and Patient Impact

- a) Has your Trust experienced any disruption to the supply of aspirin in the past three years (2022–2025)? If yes, please provide: the date(s) the disruption was first encountered, the approximate duration, and which formulations were affected.
- b) Has the supply disruption required your Trust to switch patients to alternative medications? If yes, please state which alternatives were prescribed and the number of patients affected.
- c) Has your Trust raised any formal incident reports internally or with NHS England/NHS Supply Chain as a result of this supply issue? If yes, how many in the past 12 months?

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. Such incidents are continual and ongoing, there are no particular incidents. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.



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Question 3: Stockpiling and Contingency

- a) Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for aspirin? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold.**
- b) Has your Trust increased stock levels of aspirin as a precautionary measure in the past 12 months?**
- c) If yes, by how many units did you increase stock levels?**

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.

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response. In accordance with London Regional NHS guidance and policy, ELFT does not stock pile medication. Please see link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-guide-to-the-systems-and-processes-for-managing-medicines-supply-issues-in-england/>



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