



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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3rd July 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6645

We are responding to your request for information received 4th June 2026. 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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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
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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 wound care consumables within your Trust, specifically swabs (sterile and non-sterile), cotton wool, bandages (including tubular and elasticated varieties), and non-woven balls and swabs.

Question 1: Current Stock and Usage

a)What is the current stock level of swabs, cotton wool, and bandages held by your Trust? Please break it down by product category where possible (e.g sterile gauze swabs, non-sterile gauze swabs, x-ray detectable swabs, tubular bandages, non-woven products).

b)What is your Trust's monthly usage or consumption of the above products by volume 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 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 is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not use swabs (sterile and non-sterile), cotton wool, bandages (including tubular and elasticated varieties), and non-woven balls and swabs. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: Supply Disruption Impact

a)Has the supply disruption from any of these products resulted in any procedures being delayed, cancelled, or modified? If yes, please provide the number of affected procedures by month from January 2023 to the present.

b)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 is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide the services for which you have made a request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 3: Stockpiling and Contingency

a)Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for swabs (sterile and non-sterile), cotton wool, bandages (including tubular



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and elasticated varieties), and non-woven balls and swabs? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold.

b) Has your Trust increased stock levels of surgical sutures 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:

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