



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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31st July 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6664

We are responding to your request for information received 16th 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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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: To ensure this request fits within the Section 12 cost limits, please restrict this search to your centralized Serious Incident (SI) tracking database or your equivalent risk management system (e.g., Datix/InPhase), rather than conducting manual clinical chart audits.

Question 1: Please provide data for each of the following financial years: 2024/25, and 2025/26:

The total number of recorded instances where an inpatient absconded or went missing from an inpatient mental health ward without authorization.

Answer: 2024/2025 198 instances
2025/2026 193 instances

Question 2: Please provide data for each of the following financial years: 2024/25, and 2025/26:

Of the incidents recorded in Question 1, the total number of patients who died while actively recorded as an unauthorized absence/absconded status.

Answer: 2024/25 < 5*
2025/26 < 5*

* The Trust has reviewed question 2 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

The information you have requested relates to less than five individuals and has the potential for those individuals to be identified. The Trust is therefore unable to provide this information.

Question 3: Please provide data for each of the following financial years: 2024/25, and 2025/26:

Of the incidents recorded in Question 1, the total number of patients who died within 30 days of their absconding event (if known/tracked).

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3 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. Due to our current InPhase system configuration, data on the number of incidents raised is not readily accessible. Gathering this data would require a manual case review estimated to take more than 18 working hours.



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Question 4: Please provide data for each of the following financial years: 2024/25, and 2025/26:

If providing exact numbers for questions 2 or 3 poses a risk of patient identification under Section 40(2) due to low numbers (e.g., fewer than 5), please present the data using a standard suppression indicator such as "<5" rather than withholding the entire data set.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

The information you have requested relates to less than five individuals and has the potential for those individuals to be identified. The Trust is therefore unable to provide this information.



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