



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

Robert Dolan House

9 Alie Street

London

E1 8DE

Email elft.foi@nhs.net

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

21st August 2026.

Our reference: FOI DA6750

We are responding to your request for information received 31st July 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



We promise to work together creatively to: learn 'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

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



We promise to work together creatively to: learn
'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to aquariums and aquatic displays within your Trust.

Question 1: Existing Aquariums

Please confirm whether the Trust currently owns or operates any ornamental aquarium(s) or aquatic displays.

If yes, please provide:

The number of aquariums currently in operation.

Their general location (e.g. reception, children's ward, outpatient department, waiting area).

The approximate year each aquarium was installed

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 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 visit each individual site to confirm this. We would then have to review invoices and multiple systems for each of these and this would take more than 18 hours to complete.

Question 2: Installation Supplier

For each aquarium, please provide:

The company that supplied and/or installed the aquarium.

Whether the installation was procured via a tender or procurement framework or a direct award (and, if applicable, the name of the framework).

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2 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 visit each individual site to confirm this. We would then have to review invoices and multiple systems for each of these and this would take more than 18 hours to complete.

Question 3: Maintenance

Please confirm:

Whether aquarium maintenance is carried out in-house or by an external contractor.

If externally maintained:

Name of the contractor.



We promise to work together creatively to: learn 'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Contract start date.
Contract expiry or renewal date.
Approximate annual contract value.

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 and in order to collate this information, it would be necessary to visit each individual site to confirm this. We would then have to review invoices and multiple systems for each of these and this would take more than 18 hours to complete.

Question 4: Future Projects

Please confirm whether the Trust currently has any plans, approved projects or budget allocations for new aquarium installations, replacements or refurbishments within the next 24 months.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 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 5: Procurement

Please provide:

The department responsible for procuring aquarium installations and maintenance.
The job title of the person or team responsible.

Answer: Associate Director - Contracts and Procurement

Question 6: Expenditure

Please provide, where available:

Total expenditure on aquarium installations over the previous five financial years.
Annual expenditure on aquarium maintenance for each of the previous five financial 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:



We promise to work together creatively to: learn
'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

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 visit each individual site to confirm this. We would then have to review invoices and multiple systems for each of these and this would take more than 18 hours to complete.

Question 7: Supporting Documentation

Please provide copies of any business cases, reports, evaluations or studies relating to the installation of aquariums, including any documents discussing patient wellbeing, staff wellbeing, visitor experience or therapeutic benefits.

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

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information, it would be necessary to visit each individual site to confirm this. We would then have to review invoices and multiple systems for each of these and this would take more than 18 hours to complete.



We promise to work together creatively to: learn
'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor