



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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11th September 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6806

We are responding to your request for information received 2nd September 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: For the histology/cellular pathology department:

Question 1: For each of the last 3 completed financial years, how many histology blocks and how many histology slides were archived/retained by the Trust? Please state whether the figures given are exact or estimated, and which years are covered if not 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25.

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 provide histology or cellular pathology services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: Does the Trust use any off-site storage (third-party or separate premises) for archived histology blocks or slides, in addition to or instead of on-site storage? Please answer yes or no.

Answer: No

Question 3: As at the most recent date this is known, how many histology blocks and how many histology slides are currently held on-site?

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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(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 make use of on-site storage for archived histology blocks or slides. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 4: What method or equipment is currently used to store archived histology blocks and slides (e.g. named commercial storage/cabinet system, in-house shelving, other)? If a named commercial product or system is used, please state the product/supplier name.

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:

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storage for archived histology blocks or slides. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 5: Is any barcode, RFID, or electronic tracking system used to record the location of archived blocks or slides? If so, please state the name of the system/software.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 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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(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 make use of any form of storage for archived histology blocks or slides. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 6: If the Trust holds a contract or licence for a named storage or tracking system as described in questions 4 to 5, what is the current annual contract or licence cost? If this figure is withheld as commercially sensitive, please confirm this and provide a cost banding if one is available (e.g. under £5,000 / £5,000 to £20,000 / over £20,000).

Answer The Trust has reviewed question 6 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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(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 7: How many whole time equivalent (WTE) staff are employed within the histology archive/storage function as at 31 August 2026, excluding pathologists engaged in reporting?

Answer The Trust has reviewed question 7 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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