



**East London**

NHS Foundation Trust

**Information Governance**

Robert Dolan House

9 Alie Street

London

E1 8DE

**Email** [elft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:elft.foi@nhs.net)

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

3 July 2024

**Our reference: FOI DA5440a**

I am responding to your request for information received 1 July 2024. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

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](http://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:** Thank you for your response. I would be grateful if you could clarify the information provided.

**Question 1:** You stated "East London NHS Foundation Trust does receive referrals for patients diagnosed with Functional Neurological Disorder but does not diagnose patients as requested", however later the response says that the Trust does not provide FND patients with treatment. Please can you clarify why the Trust would receive referrals for FND patients if they were not being provided with treatment?

**Answer:** East London NHS Foundation Trust will not diagnose service users for FND. The diagnosis would have been provided by the referrer.

Our Community Neuro Service is not funded to see FND patients. However, some service users with an existing diagnosis of FND are seen by our Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) team because they have SLT needs and by the Extended Primary Care Team (District Nurses/Physio/ OT) for nursing and therapy needs.

**Question 2:** Furthermore, the response states that you do not record diagnoses for patients with neurological conditions. Can you confirm whether this is the same for all outpatients regardless of diagnosis, i.e. all outpatient diagnoses are not coded?

**Answer:** Outpatient coding is not a mandatory national requirement. Any decision to code outpatient attendances is made on a local level based on local needs.

The Speech and Language Therapy team in Newham received referrals for patients with an existing confirmed diagnosis of FND, which the Trust records. Examples of this include seen by neurology; written on clinic letter; written on hospital discharge letter. However, not all patients with FND will have SLT needs.



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

## Original Request DA5440

**Question 1: The number of unique patients that have received a diagnosis of Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) in total.**

**For clarification, the use of “unique” above refers to patients that have received the same diagnosis twice only being counted once.**

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 does not provide diagnoses for Functional Neurological Disorder as requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 2: The same as above but since 2020 (the start of the tax year to the end of this tax year).**

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 provide diagnoses for Functional Neurological Disorder as requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 3: The total number of unique outpatients seen during the same four year time period.**

**For clarification, the use of “unique” above refers to patients that have received the same diagnosis twice only being counted once.**

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 provide diagnoses for Functional Neurological Disorder as requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 4: If your Trust has a neurology service or department:  
If applicable, the total number of outpatients seen for neurology during the same four year time period since 2020.**



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

Answer: Not applicable.

## **Reporting**

**Note: 1a and 2a only apply if the answers to answers 1 or 2 respectively, are negative. I would also be grateful for yes/no answers where applicable.**

**Question 1: Does the Trust routinely record outpatient diagnoses of Functional Neurological Disorder onto their electronic recording system (which can later be queried electronically to ascertain this number)?**

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 does receive referrals for patients diagnosed with Functional Neurological Disorder but does not diagnose patients as requested. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 1a: If the above answer is no, then does the Trust routinely record this information for outpatients diagnosed with any other neurological condition(s) such as stroke (any kind)?**

Answer: No.

**Question 2: Does the Trust routinely report the number of outpatient diagnoses of Functional Neurological Disorder to any other body (including NHS England, Government or any other third party) not including third parties which store or manage data on the trust's behalf such as the Trust's IT firm. If so, to whom?**

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 provide diagnoses for Functional Neurological Disorder and as such does not report it to other organisations as requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 2a: If the above answer is no, then does the Trust routinely report this information for any other neurological condition(s) such as stroke?**

Answer: No.

## **Treatment**

**The below are only applicable if your Trust has a rehabilitation, reablement or neurology service.**



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

The use of “treatment” refers to physiotherapy, psychology, orthosis, orthotics, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, vocational therapy, rehabilitation, holistic services, musculoskeletal injections and/or any other physical intervention.

Advice or the provision of information including leaflets, booklets and web links/online content I have not classed as treatment for the purposes of these questions. If the only treatment offered is medication, then also please state this.

**Question 7: Does the Trust routinely provide inpatient treatment for FND?**

Answer: No.

**Question 8: Does the Trust routinely provide outpatient treatment for FND?**

Answer: No. The Trust is not funded to provide treatment for FND patients.

**Question 9: Are these provided only within the local commissioning area or a nationwide service?**

Answer: Not applicable.



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