



**East London**

**NHS Foundation Trust  
Information Governance**

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

13 August 2024

**Our reference: FOI DA5477**

I am responding to your request for information received 8 July 2024. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request. 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)

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**We care . We respect . We are inclusive**

**Chief Executive Officer:** Lorraine Sunduza  
**Chair:** Eileen Taylor

- Request:** I am writing in relation to Secure Mental Health Transport Services in your East London NHS Foundation Trust and seeking to understand:
- Whether services are provided by in-house or outsourced providers.
  - The annual spend of your East London NHS Foundation Trust region on Secure Mental Health Transport Services.
  - Who your current outsourced providers are and the duration of their current contracts.
  - Your forward-looking budget for Secure Mental Health Transport Services

**Defining Secure Mental Health Transport Services**

This request is related to Secure Mental Health Transport Services. This is defined as:

- **Mental Health Transport:** Transport services provided for individuals requiring secure mental health transportation (from high to low secure psychiatric settings), including court escorts, attendance for hearings, transports to and from prisons, police stations, A&E departments and outpatient appointments.
- **Section 135 / 136:** Transport services provided for individuals being transported from the community to other settings under sections 135 or 136 of the Mental Health Act.

**Question 1:** Are the Secure Mental Health Transport Services provided in your East London NHS Foundation Trust region provided by an in-house or outsourced provider?

For the purposes of this question -

- “In-house” is defined as transport that is provided directly by the East London NHS Foundation Trust.
- “Outsourced” is defined as transport provided by third-parties. These may be privately owned organisations and/or public organisations such as NHS Ambulance Trusts.

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 21(1) of the FOI Act states:

*(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.*

The information requested is accessible here:

Question 9:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/ANON%20Response%20-%20FOI%20DA4297.pdf>

**Question 2:** What was the annual spend on Mental Health Transport Services in your East London NHS Foundation Trust region over the past five years across both in-house and outsourced providers?  
What journey and passenger volumes were associated with this spend?

*The response to Question 2 should enable the following table to be completed. Please be clear in the response what time period is being referred to (i.e., calendar year vs. tax year) **Mental Health Transport.***



<b>a. Spend value</b>	
In-house	£15,287,663.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,287,663.00</b>
<b>Units</b>	<p>The Trust has reviewed question 2a for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.</p> <p>Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:  <i>Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—</i>  <i>(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and</i>  <i>(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.</i></p> <p>East London NHS Foundation Trust does not centrally record the information requested.</p> <p>Section 40 for the FOI Act states:  <i>(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.</i></p> <p>In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.</p>
<b>Tax Year 2019/20</b>	£2,668,982.00
<b>Tax Year 2020/21</b>	£2,051,676.00
<b>Tax Year 2021/22</b>	£2,609,325.00
<b>Tax Year 2022/23</b>	£3,446,570.00
<b>Tax Year 2023/24</b>	£4,511,111.00
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	Not applicable.
Outsourced (Other 3rd party)	Not applicable. The Trust does not outsource transport services.
<b>b. Number of trips made</b>	
In-house	<p>The Trust has reviewed question 2b for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.</p> <p>Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:  <i>Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—</i>  <i>(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and</i>  <i>(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.</i></p> <p>East London NHS Foundation Trust does not centrally record the information requested.</p>



	<p>Section 40 for the FOI Act states:  <i>(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.</i></p> <p>In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.</p>
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	Not applicable.
Outsourced (Other 3rd party)	Not applicable. The Trust does not outsource transport services.
<b>Total</b>	Not applicable.
<b>c. Number of unique patients served</b>	
In-house	<p>The Trust has reviewed question 2c for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.</p> <p>Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:  <i>Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—</i>  <i>(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and</i>  <i>(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.</i></p> <p>East London NHS Foundation Trust does not centrally record the information requested.</p> <p>Section 40 for the FOI Act states:  <i>(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.</i></p> <p>In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.</p>
Outsourced (NHS Ambulance Trusts)	Not applicable.
Outsourced (Other 3rd party)	Not applicable. The Trust does not outsource transport services.
<b>Total</b>	Not applicable.

