



East London

**NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance**

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

20th November 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5627

I am responding to your request for information received 7 October. 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.

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
of life and continuously improve our services.
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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:

Question 1: The details of any office accommodation your organisation provides to staff to carry out trade union business. Please include details of:

a) space measured in square feet

Answer: The space is 248.3 square metres.

b) how much of this space is contained within entirely separate buildings (i.e. occupied solely by staff carrying out trade union business)

Answer: Zero.

c) whether a professional valuation of the market rental value of the space has been sought either in-house or externally, and if so, what the valuation of the space was

Answer: No. Any office space is located within Trust buildings, and not as separate spaces.

d) any charges the council levy for office space given to trade unions.

Answer: No.

Question 2: Do you deduct trade union subscriptions for any of your employees via payroll (sometimes known as the "check off" system)?

a. If so, do you charge a fee to the trade unions concerned for providing this service?

Answer: Yes, the Trust deducts trade union subscriptions via payroll.

a. Yes a fee is charged to the trade unions.

Question 3: With regard to trade union facility time, please provide the total cost of facility time from your pay bill for the financial year 2023/24 and the budget for the current financial year.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 22 of the FOI Act states:

(1) Information is exempt information if—

(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not), (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made,

The Trust will publish the cost associated with trade union facility time in its annual report which can be accessed here in due course:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/information-about-elft/annual-reports>



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Question 3a: Please also advise the current number of employees that you fund to be union officials, measured as full time equivalents? (For guidance on definitions please refer to the Government's Transparency Code for local government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2015/local-government-transparency-code-2015>)

Answer: The Trust currently employs 34.23 (WTE) individuals as union officials.

Question 4: Please advise any estimates for other costs met for those staff on trade union facility time apart from salaries - including travel expenses, office supplies, telephone expenses and energy bills.

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.



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