



East London

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

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6 December 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5655

I am responding to your request for information received 17 October 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

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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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding pest control incidents in the hospitals or clinics operated by your trust. Specifically, I would like to request:

Question 1: The total number of reported bed bug incidents for each hospital or clinic within your trust since January 1, 2018.
If specific data on bed bugs is not available, I kindly ask for the total number of pest control incidents reported during that same period.

Answer: The Trust has had two reported incidents of bed bug infestation since January 2018. The incidents were at Brick Lane Ward and the John Howard Centre.

Question 2: The number of these incidents that were treated or resolved at each hospital during that time.
Again, if bed bug-specific data is not available, please provide this information for all pest control incidents.

Answer: Both reported incidents were treated and resolved at each hospital.

Question 3: A breakdown of these incidents by year for each hospital (e.g., 2018, 2019, 2020, etc.).
If specific data on bed bugs is not tracked, please provide the yearly breakdown for general pest control incidents.

Answer: The incidents were at Tower Hamlets Brick Lane Ward in 2018 and the John Howard Centre in 2023.

Question 4: Details of any specific measures or protocols implemented in response to these incidents at each hospital (e.g., treatment procedures, preventive actions).

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 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:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2022-04/Pest%20Control%20Policy%202.0.pdf>

Question 5: Any associated costs incurred for pest control related to incidents at each hospital, including if applicable, separate costs for bed bugs if data is available.

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:

*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 cost information on specific types of infestation as requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

