



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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12 December 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5718

I am responding to your request for information received 11 November 2024 and clarified on 27 November. 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:

SECTION 1: Hospital Demographics

Question 1: Please indicate your trust/hospital type and type of care:

Trust/Hospital Type:

- a) Acute
- b) Mental Health
- c) Community
- d) Ambulance
- e) Other (please specify)

Answer: East London NHS Foundation Trust is a Mental Health and Community Health Trust.

Type of Care:

- a) Secondary
- b) Tertiary
- c) Other (please specify)

Answer: Secondary, Tertiary and Primary Care.

Question 2: Total Number of Beds: Please indicate the total number of inpatient beds in your hospital, including all types (e.g., general, ICU, maternity) if applicable.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2 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/2024-10/foi_da5618_-_appendix_1.pdf

Question 3: ICU/ITU Bed Count: How many beds are designated for intensive or high-dependency care?

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 is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide ICU or ITU services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 4: Annual Admissions: Please provide the total number of patient admissions in the last calendar year. If exact figures are unavailable, please provide your best estimate.



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Answer: There were 4400 patient admissions to the Trust in 2023.

SECTION 2: Procurement and Inventory Management

**Question 5: Formal Procurement Policies: Does your hospital have formal policies or guidelines for medical equipment procurement?
Yes (please provide a copy or summary)**

Answer: Yes. Please see Appendix 6 of the attached Trust Medical Devices policy.

Question 6: Designated Procurement Roles: Is there a designated individual or team responsible for managing the procurement of medical equipment?

If yes, please provide the role(s) and a brief description of responsibilities.

Yes – Individual

Yes – Team

Answer: No. Responsibility is held collectively by the Trust's procurement and contracts teams.

**Question 7: Inventory Review Frequency:
How often is your medical equipment inventory reviewed for excess or unused items?
Monthly
Quarterly
Biannually
Annually
Other (please specify)**

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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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not have its own inventory system; the current system is managed by the subcontractor for the maintenance and repair of medical devices record and as such the Trust is unable to provide a response.

**Question 8: Primary Sources for Procurement:
What are the primary sources for your medical equipment procurement?
Please indicate the proportion sourced from the NHS supply chain versus individual suppliers, and provide any additional details as applicable.**

Answer: The primary sources for our medical equipment procurement are Oracle and the NHS Supply Chain. The primary Trust wide supplier is Avensys.

SECTION 3: Waste and Disposal

Question 9: Excess/Expired Equipment: What percentage of your medical equipment inventory was classified as excess, unused, or expired in the last 12 months? Please provide a breakdown by equipment type, if available.



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Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 9 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 centrally record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 10: Disposal Responsibility: Is there a specific role or department responsible for overseeing the disposal of medical equipment?
If yes, please provide the role(s) and responsibilities.**

Yes – Individual

Yes – Department

No

Answer: No.

**Question 11: Formal Disposal Policy: Does your hospital have a formal policy for the disposal of medical equipment?
Yes (please provide a copy or summary of any policies)**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 11 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/2024-01/Waste%20Management%20Policy%204.3.doc>

Question 12: Types of Commonly Disposed Equipment: Please specify the types of medical equipment most commonly disposed of due to expiry or non-use. Include examples and approximate percentages for each type, if possible.

Surgical instruments
Diagnostic devices
Monitoring equipment
Imaging equipment
Other (please specify)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 12 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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However, for monitoring and diagnostic equipment, e.g. vital sign monitors, the Trust has a disposal process in place. Please see attached Appendix 7 of the Medical Devices policy.

SECTION 4: Sustainability and Environmental Impact

Question 13: Sustainability Initiatives:

Does your hospital have a sustainability initiative for recycling, reuse, or redistribution of excess or unused medical equipment?

Yes (please provide details)

Answer: Yes. The Trust uses the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Warehouse to redistribute medical devices.

Question 14: Disposal of Excess or Expired Equipment: How does your hospital manage the disposal of excess, expired, or damaged equipment?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 14 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 does not centrally record the information requested as disposal of medical equipment is managed at a local level by each ward and service. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 15: Please provide a breakdown by disposal method and indicate the approximate amount (in tonnes) used per year for each method.

Recycling

Donation

General waste

Other (please specify)

Clarification: To clarify that I am requesting the information for the calendar year 2023.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 15 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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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not centrally record the information requested as disposal of medical equipment is managed at a local level by each ward and service. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

SECTION 5: Policies and Compliance

Question 16: Compliance with Disposal Guidelines:

How does your hospital ensure compliance with national or NHS guidelines on the disposal and management of medical equipment?



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Internal audits
External audits
Regular staff training
Other (please specify)

Answer: The Trust has a contract with Hilditch for the disposal and resale of disposed medical devices, which is covered by the medical devices policy. Please see attached is Appendix 7.

Question 17: Internal Audits of Equipment Management:
Has your hospital conducted internal audits within the last 12 months to assess the management of excess medical equipment?

Yes (If yes, please indicate the frequency of audits and any key findings, if available). No

Answer: Yes. The Trust has an internal audit every two months. Key findings: we found wards had excess devices that needed redistribution, calibration, and some needed disposal.



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