



**East London**  
NHS Foundation Trust  
**Information Governance**  
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**Email** [elft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:elft.foi@nhs.net)  
**Website:** <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

17 December 2024

**Our reference: FOI DA5774**

I am responding to your request for information received 10 December 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:** The purpose of this FOI request is to discover the size of a national problem. At present approximately 80% of tubes that arrive in pathology have to be manually re-labelled in order for the blood tubes to be read by the analyser. This causes expense to hospitals, delays blood results and can lead to errors.

I would like to request the following information for the period 2021-2022 or 2022-2023, whichever is more readily available.

**Question 1: Names of hospitals under your NHS Trust**

**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 1 and 2:

[https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-12/anon\\_response\\_-\\_foi\\_da5110.pdf](https://www.elft.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-12/anon_response_-_foi_da5110.pdf)

**Question 2: Does your hospital perform blood tests or are they outsourced to an external laboratory?**

- a. Hospital based tests
- b. External laboratory (please name)

**Answer:** In Bedfordshire Community Health Services, bloods tests are hospital based.

In Newham, there are four health centres that perform blood tests. The locations are below;

- Shrewsbury Rd Health Centre, 306 Shrewsbury Road, London E7 8QP
- Centre Manor Park, 30 Church Road, London E12 6AQ
- Appleby Health Centre, 63 Appleby Road, Canning Town, E16 1LQ
- Vicarage Lane Health Centre, 10 Vicarage Lane, London E15 4ES

All blood samples are transferred to a laboratory and results when ready are made available to requesting clinicians.

**Question 3: How many blood tubes are received in pathology reception each year? Many labs know the actual number and if so please state.**

**e.g. In 2023, Our lab received 3.4 million tubes (please amend with actual number if known)**

**If not known, please estimate the number.**

- a. Less than 500,000
- b. 500,000 – 1,000,000
- c. 1,000,000 – 2,500,000
- d. 2,500,000 – 5,000,000
- e. >5,000,000

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



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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 pathology services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 4: If you do not know the answer to (3). How many patients have blood tests in your laboratory each year.**

**Many labs know the actual number and if so please state.**

**e.g. In 2023, Our lab received blood test requests for 1.2 million patients (please amend with actual number if known)**

**If not known, please estimate the number.**

- a. Less than 500,000
- b. 500,000 – 1,000,000
- c. 1,000,000 – 2,500,000
- d. 2,500,000 – 5,000,000
- e. >5,000,000

Answer: Not applicable.

**Question 5: Roughly what % of blood tests arrive from Primary Care and Secondary care respectively?**

**Primary Care X%**

**Secondary Care X%**

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 the information requested as the Trust does not receive blood tests, patients are referred for blood testing. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 6: Roughly what % of all total blood tests arriving to your reception need re-labelling so that the barcodes can be read by the analyser?**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 6 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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**Question 7: Roughly what % of blood tubes that arrive from Primary or Secondary Care need to be re-labelled so that the barcodes can be read by the analyser.**

**Primary Care: X% need to be re-labelled before analysis**  
**Secondary Care: X% need to be re-labelled before analysis**

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:  
*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.*

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