

## Freedom of Information Request

---

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.24.3520

Date Received:

---

### Information Requested:

Question 1:

a) Do you currently use virtual wards? (Y/N)

Yes

b) If yes,

i. Can you please specify how many virtual wards beds you have and the provider by specialty (Cancer care, respiratory care, cardiology care, diabetes care, stroke care, renal care, pre/post-operative care services, other)?

West Essex

106 beds for frailty, respiratory and heart failure and any other condition that is safe to be supported by the VW.

Mid and South Essex

52 beds for Respiratory, Frailty and Older Adult MH VW

### Message re: OA MH VW what are these definitions?

The MH VW is not funded from the VW programme budget, but a function in the wider service provision. Some pre-dating the programme

ii. How many patients have been admitted in virtual wards, per specialty, for the Financial Years (FY) 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024YTD (Year to Date)?

West Essex Speciality

West Essex

2018-19 – Zero service not commissioned

2019-20 – Zero service not commissioned

2020 -21 –Zero service not commissioned

2021-22 – Zero service not commissioned

2022-23 - 183

2023-24 -1611

2024-25 – 236 (April only)

Frailty

2020-21 – 158

2021-22 – 122

2022-23 – 494

2023-24 – 2064

2024-25 – 379 (YTD)

Respiratory

2021-22 – 18

2022-23 – 380  
2023-24 – 483  
2024-25 – 82 (YTD)

Cardiac  
2022-23 – 36  
2023-24 – 128  
2024-25 – 32 (YTD)

Mental Health  
2023-24 – 281  
2024-25 – 35 (YTD)

Mid and South Essex  
52 beds for Respiratory, Frailty and Older Adult MH VW  
We are unable to provide a breakdown for the financial years that have been requested.

iii. What are the values of the contracts you have in place split by specialty and provider?

£7.2m is the planned financial envelope for Virtual Wards for 23/24, £3.1m with Mid & South ICB and £4.1m with Herts & West Essex ICB. 24/25 contract negotiations are still on-going.

iv. What are the durations of the contracts you have in place split by specialty and provider?

EPUT West Essex - current contract expires in March 2025 – no split in specialty  
3 years

EPUT Mid & South Essex - The services sit as part of the main commissioned contracts with the ICBs. They run until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

c) If no,

i. If you are not currently using virtual wards, are you planning on using them in the future? n/a

ii. For which specialties are you planning on using them? n/a

iii. When would you start? n/a

---

#### Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>