

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: [EPUT.FOI.24.3743](#)

Date Received: 01/10/2024

Information Requested:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the handling and recycling of NHS equipment. Specifically, I would like to request the following information for each of the last three financial years:

1. Total equipment waste:

- The volume (in units) and value (in £) of medical equipment that was discarded, either by being placed in skips, incinerated or otherwise disposed of, rather than reused or recycled.
- Please provide a breakdown by equipment type (e.g., walking frames, crutches, beds, etc.).

Medical equipment is provided by a 3rd part contractor under tender. The equipment is provided is return to the 3rd part contractor for maintenance, repair, refurbishment and then redistributed to patients who require it. Equipment that is beyond repair is dismantled with the parts being used to maintain equipment. Items that can not be used are recycled through the contractors procedures.

2. Costs associated with waste:

- What is the annual cost of purchasing new patient medical equipment (crutches, walking frames etc)

[£3,311](#)

3. Recycling and reuse mechanisms:

- Details of any mechanisms, schemes, or policies your Trust has in place for reusing, recycling, or donating medical equipment, including:
 - How returned equipment is processed (e.g., decontamination and refurbishment).
 - The percentage of equipment successfully reused or recycled.
 - Any partnerships with charities or external organisations to recycle or donate equipment.
 - Who is the named person in your NHS Trust responsible for holding this work

The Trust has 4 tendered contracts with specific waste providers, these contracts encompasses the disposal and associated recycling for all of the Trust was, including but not limited to:

- Clinical Waste
- Confidential Waste
- Domestic Waste
- ICT Waste

The Trust uses an on-line platform to encourage the reuse other items, which can be recycled and used elsewhere around the Trust.

The Trust has a dedicated Waste Manager. As the Trust is in a period of transition with the recruitment of a new waste manager it would not be appropriate at this moment in time to identify an individual at this time.

4. Financial savings or revenue:

- The financial savings your Trust has made through recycling or reusing medical equipment (if applicable).
- Any revenue generated from recycling or selling used equipment, including the breakdown by equipment type.

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format, but may be recorded in individual records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

5. Contractor involvement:

The total amount of money paid to contractors or suppliers for the provision of medical equipment that could potentially be reused or recycled.

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format, but may be recorded in individual records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

6. Plans for future action:

- Any current or future initiatives aimed at reducing the waste of medical equipment and improving recycling or reuse efforts.

The Trust continually monitors and looks for opportunities to reduce all forms of waste.

If the information is held but the requested data spans multiple departments, please provide contact details for each relevant department.

Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit): (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit. (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases. (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority— (a) by one person, or (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them. (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated

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>