

FOI REF: 23/787

2nd January 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

I would like to request the following information:

- 1) The type and number of tourniquets used for venepuncture and cannulation annually in your Hospital Trust, specifically whether you use single use (disposable) or reusable tourniquets and what material they are made out of.**

We are unable to confirm the number of tourniquets used for venepuncture and cannulation but can confirm the quantity purchased in the last 12 months as below:

Reusable	3,266
Single use	357,265

- 2) If you use a mix of both, whether there is there any Trust policy for deciding which tourniquet to use.**

Yes.

- 3) When you first introduced single use tourniquets, if you do use them.**

We do not hold this information, but it is approximately about 15 years ago.

- 4) The cost per single use tourniquet/other type of tourniquet you use (or total annual cost)**

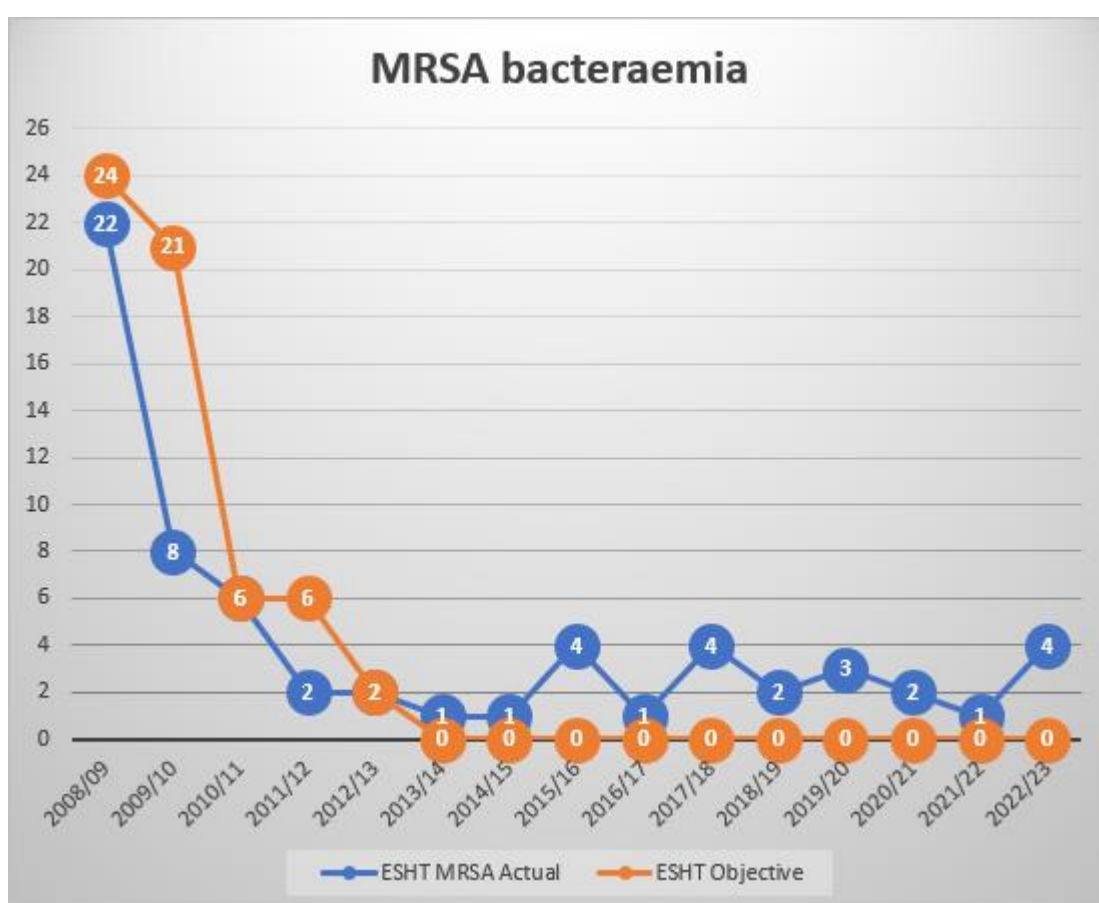
Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

We have concluded that sharing commercials could disadvantage the incumbent supplier against their competitors. The information could provide competitors with the suppliers pricing, which could result in these suppliers obtaining a competitive advantage which could result in the Trust not obtaining best value for money.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

- 5) **The MRSA infection rates at your Trust, for three years either side of your introduction of single use tourniquets, referring to bloodstream infections (bacteremias) rather than surface carriage.**



- 6) **Whether you implemented any of the following infection control procedures within the same year as implementing single use tourniquets:**

- a) **Stricter hand hygiene policy.**

Ongoing and follows national hand hygiene campaigns.

b) Staff education programme on infection control procedures.

Ongoing rolling programme.

c) Screening of patients for MRSA on admission to hospital.

Has been in place prior to 2002.

d) Isolation or decolonisation of patients who tested positive for MRSA.

Has been in place prior to 2002.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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