

FOI REF: 24/810

5th December 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

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:

SECTION 1: Hospital Demographics

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

a. Trust/Hospital Type:

- i. Acute**
- ii. Mental Health**
- iii. Community**
- iv. Ambulance**
- v. Other (please specify)**

b. Type of Care:

- i. Secondary**
- ii. Tertiary**
- iii. Other (please specify)**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by the following link:

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust](#)

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

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.

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<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/bed-availability-and-occupancy/bed-data-day-only>

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

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

19.

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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[Annual-Report-2023-24-and-Quality-accounts-2023-24.pdf](#)

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

SECTION 2: Procurement and Inventory Management

1. **Formal Procurement Policies:** Does your hospital have formal policies or guidelines for medical equipment procurement?

Yes.

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<https://www.esht.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-publications/>

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

2. **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.

a. Yes – Individual

b. Yes – Team ✓

The Trust's Procurement Team is responsible for all purchasing for the Trust.

c. No

3. **Inventory Review Frequency:** How often is your medical equipment inventory reviewed for excess or unused items?

a. Monthly ✓

b. Quarterly

c. Biannually

d. Annually

e. Other (please specify)

4. **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.

44% of spend from NHS Supply Chain and 56% of spend from individual suppliers.

SECTION 3: Waste and Disposal

1. **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.

We do not hold/record the information as requested.

Any medical equipment that is disposed, scrapped or recycled is done in bulk, therefore we do not hold this information broken down so would not have breakdown of types of equipment.

2. **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.

a. Yes – Individual

b. Yes – Department

c. No

This would be done in-partnership with the Trust's Waste Management team and departments such as EME. Equipment would firstly be, where possible, reused within the Trust. Those items that cannot be reused may go to auction or scrapped.

3. **Formal Disposal Policy:** Does your hospital have a formal policy for the disposal of medical equipment?

No specific disposal of medical equipment. There is a section with the Trust Policy & Procedure for the Management of Waste, which covers disposal of some medical devices.

4. **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.

- a. Surgical instruments
- b. Diagnostic devices
- c. Monitoring equipment
- d. Imaging equipment
- e. Other (please specify)

Surgical instruments are recycled where possible via the metal recycling schemes in place. Monitoring and imaging equipment would be recycled where possible.

SECTION 4: Sustainability and Environmental Impact

1. **Sustainability Initiatives:** Does your hospital have a sustainability initiative for recycling, reuse, or redistribution of excess or unused medical equipment?

- a. Yes (please provide details) ✓

Logistic Team provides a reuse programme, this means that departments cannot order furniture or items until they have first checked to see if the required furniture or items are available via the Logistic Team. In the past 12 months over 700 items have been reused.

- b. No

2. **Disposal of Excess or Expired Equipment:** How does your hospital manage the disposal of excess, expired, or damaged equipment? Please provide a breakdown by disposal method and indicate the approximate amount (in tonnes) used per year for each method.

- a. Recycling

Items, equipment and furniture are recycled and reused where possible. 700 items over the past 12 months.

- b. Donation

No.

- c. General waste

No.

d. **Other (please specify)**

No.

SECTION 5: Policies and Compliance

1. **Compliance with Disposal Guidelines: How does your hospital ensure compliance with national or NHS guidelines on the disposal and management of medical equipment?**

a. **Internal audits**

Waste Management carry out internal audits.

b. **External audits**

Pre-Acceptance Audits for Clinical Waste. DGSA Audits.

c. **Regular staff training**

Provided by Trust Waste Management Team.

d. **Other (please specify)**

Duty of Care audits on companies completed by Waste Management.

2. **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)

The equipment in the libraries is monitored monthly to ensure correct equipment is located on the site it is needed; equipment regularly moves to meet the patient demands. Any equipment not in regular use is removed to storage for re-issue as and when required.

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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net