

FOI REF: 25/272

6th May 2025

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:

- 1. In the fiscal year 2024 / 2025 how much money has the trust spent recompensing patients for lost or stolen property?**

£32,276.

- 2. How does the trust dispose of unclaimed lost property?**

Wherever possible, property is returned to the patient or family. Any unclaimed items considered to be of negligible value e.g., clothes are disposed of via general waste.

Items of value are sent to Auction.

Items with data are sent to digital for data removal / disposing of.

- 3. What value or threshold (£GBP) does a ward or department have to settle with a patient directly, rather than escalating to the Finance department?**

There is no threshold.

All claims for lost/damaged property are approved by the budget holder and passed to finance for payment.

If the claim is high, Finance checks the reason for the payment and any corresponding invoices / quotations that back up the claim before the claim is paid out. If for any reason Finance are not happy with the request, more information is requested.

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4. Is question 3. recorded and forms part of your response to question 1?

Yes, these are recorded, and the value is included in the total costs incurred by the Trust in 2024/25.

5. What are the top 3 most expensive items?

Different types of Lost Dentures and Hearing Aids.

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