

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3099

**Please reply to:**  
FOI Administrator  
Trust Management  
Service Centre  
Maidstone Hospital  
Hermitage Lane  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 9QQ  
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

13 January 2016

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to sterilisation costing.

*What was the trusts total spend on sterilisation in 2014?*

*What was the trusts spend on sterilisation of Orthopaedic equipment in 2014?*

*How many instruments sets in 2014 had to be fast tracked, i.e. sterilized at a higher cost to be returned to theatres in a shorter time frame than usual?*

*How long is the current sterilization service contracted until?*

*How many trays in 2014 were returned to the account non-compliant? What were the reasons for the sterilised trays being classed as non-compliant?*

1. The approximate spend on sterilisation for 2014 was £1.6Million
2. This information is not held electronically and the Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.
3. Two sets had to be fast tracked throughout the entire year; the trust does not advocate the use of the fast track system.
4. The current contract is set until January 2025 with an option in the contract for an addition five years until 2030.

5. The quarantine system returned a total of 1,518 trays for the year. The reason for the returns is not held electronically but is usually due to missing items, broken items or items for repair. The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.