

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 4158

Please reply to:
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10 January 2018

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 Hospital privacy curtains.

- 1. What is the policy regarding the changing of a hospital privacy curtain in each NHS Hospital? How often are they changed on average per year? Is there any variation based on high or low risk areas/departments? For example: "Curtains are changed every 3, 4 or 6 months, or if visibly soiled or after a terminal clean, A&E curtains are changed more frequently at every two months. "*
- 2. Is the policy referenced in Q1 applied to all curtain types; Linen, disposable, disposable antimicrobial. Please specify any variation of policy based on curtain type.*
- 3. What type (Linen, disposable, disposable antimicrobial) of privacy curtain is used, who is the producer/manufacture? If multiple curtain products are present please list these.*
- 4. Does an external company provide curtain services to the trust (supply of curtains, curtains changing, fitting, laundering)? If so, please state the company name, services provided, and curtain contract end/review date.*
- 5. What is the annual cost to each hospital for linen and laundry services for the privacy curtains? If disposable curtains are used, what is total annual spend for these, for approximately how many curtains?*
- 6. How many privacy curtains are in use in each hospital within the trust? Please state compared to the number of beds for each hospital.*
- 7. What proportion of curtain spend per year is through the NHS supply chain? Please state values in GBP.*

1. Hospital policy is to change disposable curtains once a year.
If visibly soiled they are changed.
If torn they are changed
If an infected patient has been discharged, they are changed.
There is no difference for wards or departments and risk categories.
2. There is no variation in the curtains apart from size and colour.
3. All curtains used across both sites are antimicrobial disposable curtains.
Marlux Medical Ltd provides the curtains.

4. Marlux Medical Ltd provides the curtains and also provides the fittings for existing curtain rails. Curtain contract is due to end in 2017.
5. The information requested is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 43 as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).
6. Maidstone Hospital uses 852 curtains compared to 372 beds. Tunbridge Wells Hospital uses 453 curtains compared to 468 beds.
7. None of the curtains are through the NHS supply chain so therefore no proportion is spent.