

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4628

**Please reply to:**  
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### **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 meal wastage.

*You asked:*

- 1. Can you please tell me the number of hospital meals thrown away every day and the cost of doing so?*
- 2. Please provide these figures for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 if the figures are available?*
- 3. Please can you tell me how much each meal costs, per day, per patient, for each of the years stated in question 2?*
- 4. If possible, can you please provide the main reasons why the food isn't consumed and is thrown away?*

Trust response:

Detailed wastage figures are not available.

Spot check audits show wastage at Maidstone Hospital between 5-8% and Tunbridge Wells Hospital between 8-12%

We have based the following information on the worst case i.e. Maidstone Hospital 8% and Tunbridge Wells Hospital 12% - this is untouched plate waste.

1 & 2. Approx. number of meals thrown away per day (breakfasts, lunches and suppers)

Maidstone Hospital approx. 82 meals /day

Tunbridge Wells Hospital approx. 156 meals per day

Cost of untouched meals:

-- Maidstone Hospital 2016/17 - £102/day

-- Tunbridge Wells Hospital 2016/17 - £236/day

-- Maidstone Hospital 2015/16 - £83/day

-- Tunbridge Wells Hospital 2015/16 - £227/day

3. 2015 & 2016 figures for patient feeding cost per day are available:

2016/17 – Maidstone Hospital £4.43

- Tunbridge Wells Hospital £4.54

2015/16 – Maidstone Hospital £ 3.59

- Tunbridge Wells Hospital £ 4.36

4. The main reasons for waste are as follows:

- Patient becomes nil by mouth
- Patient discharged
- Patient away from ward at meal time e.g. x-ray or scan appt.
- Patient too ill to eat
- Poor or small appetite - elderly or swallowing problems
- Patient unable to feed themselves.
- Special diet change needed after ordering from normal menu