

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5048

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 Sanitary Products.

You asked:

- 1. Does your trust provide free female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) to in-patients?*
- 2. Does your trust have a policy covering the provision of female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) to in-patients? If yes, please provide this policy.*
- 3. How many premises with inpatient beds are there in your trust, and at how many of these premises are female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) available to purchase on site? For example, in shops or bathroom vending-machines.*
- 4. How much did your trust spend (£) on female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) in the following financial years:*

- 2017/18*
- 2016/17*
- 2015/16*
- 2014/15*
- 2013/14*
- 2012/13*

And, where possible, please provide a breakdown of this spending against the products' NHS Supply Chain catalogue codes.

- 5. How many inpatients beds were there in your trust for each of the following financial years?*

- 2017/18*
- 2016/17*
- 2015/16*
- 2014/15*
- 2013/14*
- 2012/13*

6. Please provide a list of all items that are supplied to in-patients free of charge in your trust, and a list of all items which you advise in-patients to bring with them for an overnight or extended stay.

Trust response:

1. Yes sanitary towels which are stock items

2. Using the search terms: “sanitary”, “tampon” and “towel” in the Organisation Wide Q-Pulse database.

- These searches retrieve no Trust-wide policy specifically on the provision of female sanitary products.
- These terms do not appear in the context of the provision of female sanitary products within any other Trust-wide policy.

3. We have 2 sites that sell sanitary products from their retail outlets (League of Friends at Maidstone Hospital & WH Smiths at Tunbridge Wells Hospital). We do not have vending machines in our public toilets.

4. As all the sanitary pads purchased by the Trust are classified as maternity pads we are unable to split the cost to show those not used for maternity.

5.

- 2017/18 – As at Mar 2018 there were 716 Core General & Acute Beds open overnight across Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) Hospitals + 47 Maternity Beds +5 Maternity at Crowborough (+9 private beds)
- 2016/17 – As at Mar 2017 there were 727 Core General & Acute Beds open overnight across MTW Hospitals +52 Maternity Beds + 5 Maternity at Crowborough (+9 private beds)
- 2015/16 – As at Mar 2016 there were 688 Core General & Acute Beds open overnight across MTW Hospitals + 52 Maternity Beds + 5 Maternity at Crowborough (+ 18 private beds)
- 2014/15 – As at Dec 2014 there were 635 Core General & Acute Beds open overnight across MTW Hospitals + 52 Maternity Beds (+ 13 private beds)
- 2013/14 – As at Mar 2014 there were 656 Core General & Acute Beds open overnight across MTW Hospitals + 52 Maternity Beds (+ 13 private beds)
- 2012/13 – As at Nov 2012 there were 670 Core General & Acute Beds open overnight across MTW Hospitals + 52 Maternity Beds (+PPU at Tunbridge Wells Hospital opened in October 2012 with 26 beds as 4 of the rooms were set up for out patients.)

6. A list of items in-patients are advised to bring with them can be found on the Trust website <https://www.mtw.nhs.uk/patients-visitors/staying-in-hospital/> The Trust can confirm that there are no charges to patients for any products used during an inpatient stay such as, toothbrushes, slippers, socks, sanitary towels etc.