

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5559

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

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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 Decontamination and sterilisation service.

*You asked:*

- 1. Is decontamination/sterilization handled in-house or outsourced?*
- 2. What is the total number of trays process on a daily/monthly/yearly basis?*
- 3. How much does it cost to process and deliver trays?*
- 4. How much time is taken fully process one tray?*
- 5. How many times a day are surgical trays collected and processed?*
- 6. How many individual instruments are cleaned?*
- 7. How many times can an individual instrument be reused?*
- 8. What are the different surgical tray dimensions?*
- 9. What is the cost of the surgical equipment?*
- 10. How much staff is required to process surgical trays?*
- 11. What is the cleaning cost of surgical instruments?*
- 12. How many surgical admissions occur each year?*
- 13. What is the average number of trays per operation?*
- 14. What machines are required to reprocess surgical trays? How many?*
- 15. How many operations are cancelled each year due to inadequate decontamination/sterilization?*
- 16. How many hospital-acquired infections occur each year due to inadequate decontamination/sterilization?*
- 17. How much does inadequate decontamination/sterilization cost each year?*

Trust response:

1. Decontamination/sterilization is outsourced for 2012-2013 & 2017-2018
2. Daily/monthly/yearly totals vary according to activity. We have therefore given an average of total for a month and a year. We are unable to provide

this on a daily, monthly breakdown. Please note this also includes supplementary items

2012-2013:

Yearly 110'000

2017-2018:

Yearly approximately 92'796 the figures can fluctuate depending on demand and other pressure to the NHS

3. Supplementary items £2.00-£2.30

Mid-size tray around 30-40 instruments £30-£40

Large tray £60-70 instruments £55.00

4. Processing of trays is completed for the trust in a 18 hour cycle this includes the collection of the trays, washing, inspection, autoclaving, packing, wrapping, autoclaving, cooling and delivery back to the trust. This is the same for both periods stipulated above.

5. Collections are made three times a day 05.00am 13.00pm and 18.30pm

6. It is not possible to give precise individual instrument numbers as we only work with trays

7. Instruments are used once then sent for re cleaning and sterilizing. The life span of the instrument can vary and depends on the type of instrument, what it is used for and its integrity which is checked each time it is processed.

8. Instruments trays used within our trust are two standard sizes these are half din size = 240x250x60mm. Full din size = 480x250x60mm

9. Surgical instrumentation costs vary according to type of equipment and vary between different suppliers. We have given a few samples but it is not possible to answer this question entirely as it is too vast. It can also vary depending on quantity required (bulk buying)

Surgical scissors suture cutting £3.15

Surgical scissors tissue cutting £5.60

Scalpel handle £3.15

Dissecting forceps £34.95

Needle holder £69.00

Retractor £55.00

Fine ENT instruments £138.00-£250.00

Fine Eye instruments £160.00- £300.00

Rongeur £270.00-£350.00

Orthopedic drills £7000-10000

A full instrument tray can cost anywhere between £2500-£5000 or more for specialist surgery

10. Surgical instrumentation staff can again vary on if it is in house or external, we use external providers who also supply other hospitals, and they have approximately 50 staff.

11. Surgical instruments are categorized into cost per tray depending on amount of instruments per tray. We have given a range of cost as examples.

Supplementary items £2.00-£2.30

Mid-size tray around 30-40 instruments £30-£40

Large tray 60-70 instruments £55.00

12. Approximate surgical admission for one year 25'759

13. This depends on the type of surgery and cannot be detailed, but can be between 1-15 trays per case.

14. Washer disinfectant, ultrasonic washer, drying cabinets, heat seal machines, autoclaves. The number of machines depends on the service being provided.

15. None full contract monitoring to prevent these issues.

16. None full contract monitoring to prevent these issues.

17. None full contract monitoring to prevent these issues.