

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6767

**Please reply to:**  
FOI Administrator  
Trust Management  
Maidstone Hospital  
Hermitage Lane  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME16 9QQ  
Email: [mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net](mailto:mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net)  
[www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk)

17 June 2021

## **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 Blood pressure cuffs and needles and syringes.

*You asked:*

*Blood pressure cuffs:*

- 1. Annual spend on blood pressure monitor cuffs as follows:*
  - a. Disposable blood pressure cuffs*
  - b. Re-usable blood pressure cuffs*
- 2. List of your current purchase price for blood pressure cuffs*
- 3. List of your current models of blood pressure monitors*
- 4. Contact (Name, email, phone number) details for the ward consumables purchaser(s) responsible for placing orders for blood pressure cuffs.*

*Needles and Syringes:*

- 1. Annual spend on needles and syringes as follows:*
  - a. Needles and syringes in total*
  - b. Specifically*
    - i. Hypodermic needles (non-safety)*
    - ii. Safety hypodermic needles*
    - iii. Syringes*
    - iv. Combined Insulin needles and syringes*
    - v. Insulin pen needles*
    - vi. NR Fit needles and syringes*
    - vii. Anaesthesia needles and syringes*
    - viii. Soft tissue biopsy needles*
    - ix. Bone marrow biopsy needles*
- 2. Biopsy needles*
  - a. Do you consider that you mainly use manual, semi-automatic or fully automatic needles?*
- 3. List of your current purchase price for needles and syringe products*

*4. Contact (Name, email, phone number) details for the ward consumables purchaser(s) responsible for placing orders for needles and syringes.*

Trust response:

1. The Trust is applying Section 43(2) FOIA which provides an exemption from disclosure of further detailed information which would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

The Trust believes that the information requested is of an amount which may identify the items or services provided which would be likely to damage the company's ability to win new business opportunities for their services and products and to perform them within a commercially competitive market.

The Trust has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption, and therefore protecting the commercial interests of the suppliers and preserving its ability to compete fairly in a commercial market, outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this case.

Supplier Transactions

All NHS bodies are required to publish details of individual invoices and transactions that are over £25,000. This is in response to guidance from HM Treasury which sets out the scope of the data. Details can be found on our website using the following link: [www.mtw.nhs.uk/about-us/our-quality-story/finance/](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk/about-us/our-quality-story/finance/)

2. The Trust is applying Section 43(2) FOIA which provides an exemption from disclosure of further detailed information which would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

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3. 68NXTX-4

4. Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust receives a number of requests for details relating to the professional lives of our staff from private individuals and organisations, some of whom are involved in recruitment and marketing. We are aware that approaches from some of these organisations, as a result of any disclosure on our part, may lead to damage and distress to individuals

whose roles and responsibilities would not normally be public facing or a level where the expectation would be that this information should be in the public domain. On very rare occasions it might be considered in the public interest to disclose some information but in such cases the views of the individual staff concerned is always sought.

The Trust has therefore decided that in future all such requests will normally be refused using the limitations available under Section 10 and Section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The information you have requested is therefore exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Trust follows guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office on the disclosure of personal data including direct contact details.

Information relating to staff that is not currently publically available on our website will not be released under Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 40(2) (personal information) as it relates to the personal information of employees.

The Trust Executive structure chart is available on the Trust website [www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk) this role falls under the remit of the Chief Finance Officer. Or contact the Procurement Team using the following email:

[Mtw-tr.procurement@nhs.net](mailto:Mtw-tr.procurement@nhs.net)

Needles and Syringes:

1. Annual spend on needles and syringes as follows:

a. £599,700

b. Further information will not be released under Section 43(2) FOIA which provides an exemption from disclosure of further detailed information which would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

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## 2. Biopsy needles

a. In order to respond to this question would need clinical input as it would depend on the procedure being carried out. 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. The Trust is applying Section 43(2) FOIA which provides an exemption from disclosure of further detailed information which would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

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