

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7146

**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)

10 January 2022

## **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 Human Milk Product Purchasing.

*You asked:*

- 1. Does your Trust acquire human milk or human milk-based products for infant or paediatric feeding? If so, how?*
- 2. Does your Trust have policy on providing human milk to adult patients for their consumption? If so, please can you attach it.*
- 3.a. If your Trust acquires human milk-based products from private suppliers (e.g., companies), can you provide the annual amount spent on these products by your Trust for the past 5 years, if available?*
- 3.b. If your Trust does not currently use private suppliers, please can you detail if your trust has been approached by any companies to purchase such products for infant, paediatric or adult consumption?*

Trust response:

1. Yes – It comes from Hearts Milk Bank which has charity status <https://heartsmilkbank.org/> part of The Human Milk Foundation.
2. We are not aware of any policy or use of human milk for adults.
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.

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.

4. Not applicable for neonates.

Not that we are aware of for Adults or Paediatrics.