

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7794

**Please reply to:**  
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23 November 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 Winter power cuts.

*You asked:*

- 1. Prior to October 2022, did you have a written plan in the event of a loss of power for the hospital(s) overseen by the trust? What did this entail?*
- 2. How long can the hospital(s) run on back-up power?*
- 3. Have you re-examined those plans and / or made any alterations for this winter?*
- 4. What have you changed?*
- 5. What are your plans for hospitals if there are regular three-hour power cuts with advanced warning this winter, as warned by the National Grid?*
- 6. Under what scenario would the hospital(s) be forced to close as a result of power outages this winter?*
- 7. What would your advice to hospitals be in the event of a power outage with advance warning?*
- 8. What would your advice to hospitals be in the event of a sudden loss of power?*
- 9. In the event of a sustained nationwide loss of power, have you contacted any other organisations to see if you can draw on their backup generation?*

Trust response:

#### Maidstone Hospital:

1. There is a policy for the electrical infrastructure and procedures in the operational folder for the management of electrical systems, recent improvements are being included.

There are three forms of 'back-up' for the supply of electricity to the hospital

- (i) Second incomer with auto-changeover in the event of a failure of the first incomer supply
- (ii) HV generator supplies power to the entire Maidstone Hospital
- (iii) Local LV generators, each serving around one third of the hospital take over if the HV generator fails or the local supply from the transformer fails

In addition, some areas have uninterruptable power supplies, e.g. IT server rooms and theatres

2. Approximately 10 days

3. No. The generators are serviced regularly and have anti-freeze

4. As 3. No changes required

5. Will use standby generators

6. This would depend on the intelligence received to then enable the trust to make an informed decision

7.

(i) Emergency Planning with Estates Dept to inform sites of procedures and arrange meetings with stakeholders

(ii) Liaise with IT, Medical Physics, Radiology and other departments affected by loss of supply and fluctuating electrical waveforms

(iii) Additional servicing of UPS systems, those affected to be informed, departments owning their own UPS systems to get them serviced

(iv) Messages to Trust via Communications Dept, would include 'ensure that work on computers saved regularly'

(v) Theatres and other specialists will consider if they carry out essential procedures only

8. As 7.

9. Estates have contact with generator hire companies, but as we have standby generators we would be ensuring fuel is provided and have a service contract with generator specialists who service our standby generators.

#### Tunbridge Wells Hospital (TWH):

1.

(i) Yes 2 HV supplies from DNO

(ii) TWH has 3 HV Generators supplying the whole hospital (all areas)

(iii) TWH has 3 UPS supplies for critical areas but does not cover the IT servers as they are owned and maintained by the Trust

2. TWH has 3 HV Generators supplying the whole hospital (all areas) the arrangement has sufficient capacity to run the entire hospital on one generator. Continuous running is possible dependant on fuel supply, however national grid will prioritise key facilities power supply.

3. No, TWH tests generators regularly transferring load to simulate a power failure

4. No changes required

5. TWH has 3 HV Generators supplying the whole hospital (all areas) the arrangement has sufficient capacity to run the entire hospital on one generator. Continuous running is possible dependant on fuel supply, however national grid will prioritise key facilities power supply.

6. This would depend on the intelligence received to then enable an informed decision to be made.

7.

- (i) Emergency Planning with Estates Dept to inform sites of procedures and arrange meetings with stakeholders
- (ii) Liaise with IT, Medical Physics, Radiology and other departments affected by loss of supply and fluctuating electrical waveforms
- (iii) Additional servicing of UPS systems, those affected to be informed, departments owning their own UPS systems to get them serviced
- (iv) Messages to Trust via Communications Dept, would include 'ensure that work on computers saved regularly'
- (v) Theatres and other specialists will consider if they carry out essential procedures only

8. As 7.

9. Please see Q9 response for Maidstone Hospital.