

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 9500

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

18 November 2024

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 Gifts for nursing staff.

You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.

1) Please can you supply a breakdown for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 of items logged on your organisation's gifts and hospitality register by/relating to nursing staff (include Agenda for Change band 5 and above – please see list at the end of this email). I request the following details laid out like the following example, in table form:*

2) Please can you also tell me – does your organisation have a policy with a monetary limit on gifts (i.e. gifts valued under £50 are allowed) and are cash gifts ever permitted?

3) Finally, please state whether any nursing staff at your organisation were left any gifts or sums of money in patients' wills during this time period?

Trust response:

1. Please see the following table.

Date item declared	Description of gift	Which nursing role*/band* received gift?	Reason for gift	Value	Accepted or declined?
Aug-23	Gift card	Specialist Nurse Practitioner band 7	Thank you for inpatient care	£60	Declined / Returned
Nov-23	Gift card	Nurse Manager band 8a	Thank you for inpatient care	£30	Declined / Returned
Apr-24	2 x OxiPro OX2 pulse oximeters	Specialist Nurse Practitioner band 7	Gift from hospital volunteer to support patient care	Circa £38-48	Accepted

2. Please see the following extract from the Conflicts of interest policy and procedure.

Section 5.7.1 of the Conflicts of interest policy and procedure:

Gifts from suppliers or contractors doing business (or likely to do business) with the organisation should be declined, whatever their value. However, low cost branded promotional aids such as pens or post-it notes may be accepted where they are under the value of £6 in total. These need not be declared.

Gifts of cash, direct cash equivalents and vouchers to individuals (from patients, families, the public etc.) should always be politely declined. If gifts of cash are made via non-personal means (e.g. via the post), efforts should be made (by the staff member to whom the gift was offered) to contact the person making the gift, to politely explain that the cash cannot be accepted, and either make arrangements for the money to be returned (ideally in person, or if this is not possible, via recorded postal delivery), or to seek the consent for the money to be donated to the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Charitable Fund. If efforts to contact the person are unsuccessful, the money should be donated to the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Charitable Fund.

Gifts valued at over £50 should be treated with caution and only be accepted on behalf of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Charitable Fund i.e. they should not be accepted in a personal capacity. Such gifts should also be declared by staff.

Modest gifts i.e. those under a value of £50 can be accepted and do not need to be declared.

Multiple gifts from the same source over a 12-month period should be treated in the same way as single gifts over £50 where the cumulative value exceeds £50. At that point, the offer of the gift should be declared. This step has been included to protect staff from appearing to be taking advantage of the £50 threshold, by accepting several gifts that are below this amount individually, but which over a period of time, may equate to a greater amount.

If gifts below the £50 threshold are offered to different staff members (individually) from the same source, at the same time, and the collective value of such gifts exceeds the £50 threshold, such staff members are free to accept the gift, but a single declaration should be made that covers the collective value of the offers and the intended recipients. The line manager of the relevant staff is responsible for ensuring the declaration is made.

If an offer of a non-cash gift/s above the value of £50 is made to a Ward/Department as a whole i.e. with the intention of the gift being received by more than one individual, the decision whether to accept the gift should be made by the Ward Manager/Head of Department. The decision should take into account whether the gift is lavish. The £50 threshold for individual gift acceptance should also be used to inform the decision. In any case, the offer should be declared by the Ward Manager/Head of Department.

3. There is no record of any nursing staff being left any gifts or sums of money in patients' wills during this time period.