



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2022/7922

Date Received: 27th January 2022

Response Due: 24th February 2022

Date: 11th February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please can you answer the following questions:

- 1. How much did your organisation spend on Sodium Hyaluronate eye drop formulations between the period of 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021?**

£905.96

- 2. Between the period 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021, which brand(s) of Sodium Hyaluronate eye drop formulations did you use?**

Hylo-Forte

To make your research easier, I have listed all commonly used brands which you can cross reference:

- **Blink Intensive Tears**
- **Lacrifresh**
- **Artelac Rebalance**
- **Oxyal**
- **Xailin HA**
- **Optive Fusion**
- **Hyabak**
- **Hydramed**

- Evolve HA
- Vismed Multi
- Clinitas Multi
- Eye Logic
- Euphrasia
- Biotrue
- Vismed Gel Multi
- Hysoothe
- Optrex Night Restore Gel
- Hy-Opti
- Hylo-Tear
- Murine Professional
- Hylo-Forte ✓
- Hycosan Fresh
- Hylo Care
- Hycosan

3. How many units of each brand did you use?

Section 43(2) - Commercial interests.

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and subject to the prejudice test and the public interest test. Under the prejudice test we have to consider if disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice our commercial interests or the commercial interests of a third party.

Consideration is also given to the harm disclosing this information would be likely to cause, combined with other information already in the public domain (mosaic effect) or possibly released at a future date (precedent effect). The public interest test considers and balances the public interest in disclosing this information against the public interest in not disclosing this information and uses this assessment to decide whether there is sufficient justification in withholding this information under this exemption.

Information disclosed under the FOIA is considered to be public information, and while there is a presumption towards disclosure, consideration needs to be given as to who will have access to this information beyond the requestor and the purposes for which they could use the information.

Prejudice to commercial interests

The Trust has examined the impact of releasing the information withheld under Section 43 (2) in order to decide if disclosure would be likely to prejudice our commercial interests or the commercial interests of a third party. The information required to provide a response to this questionnaire is contractually confidential and would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of ourselves and those who intend to tender for this service.

Public Interest Test

There is, of course, a public interest in promoting transparency of public authorities' decisions and accountability, however, the disclosure of the information currently withheld under this exemption would be likely to prejudice commercial interests of the Trust as it will reveal details which would be likely impact on future spending and also prejudice our ability to effectively negotiate and achieve best value for the public purse.

It is the view of the Trust that, at this time, the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masterman', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Gary Masterman
Associate Director of Pharmacy (Governance Assurance)

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113