

Ref: FOI/2024/9972

Date Received: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Response Due: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**1. How many instrument / procedure trays *all specialities* were processed during period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?**

212,066.

**2. Please indicate staffing structure, banding and budgeted FTE for all posts within Sterile Services?**

Senior Manager – Band 8c = 1 WTE  
Senior Manager – Band 8b = 1 WTE  
Admin & Clerical – Band 7 = 1 WTE  
Admin & Clerical – Band 5 = 2 WTE  
Admin & Clerical – Band 4 = 1 WTE  
Admin & Clerical – Band 3 = 1.20 WTE  
Ancillary – Band 7 = 4 WTE  
Ancillary – Band 5 = 4 WTE  
Ancillary – Band 4 = 16.18 WTE  
Ancillary – Band 3 = 62.19 WTE  
Ancillary – Band 2 = 2.57 WTE  
Maintenance – Band 6 = 0.40 WTE  
Maintenance – Band 5 = 1.48 WTE

Please see staffing structure attached.

3. **How many instrument / procedure trays were found to have had compromised packaging through holes / tears or issue with sterilization container for *all specialities* during period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?**  
11.
4. **How many recorded instances of delays in surgery or procedure were caused through compromised packaging with instrument / procedure trays for *all specialities* during 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?**  
0.
5. **How many recorded instances of cancellations in surgery or procedure were caused through compromised packaging with instruments / procedure trays for *all speciality* during 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?**  
0.
6. **Looking at the specialities of only Orthopaedic and Spine instrument / procedure trays, how many trays were processed during period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?**  
21,263.
7. **How many Orthopaedic and Spine instrument / procedure trays were found to have compromised packaging through holes / tears or issue with sterilization container, during period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?**  
10.
8. **How many recorded instances in delayed surgery / procedure were caused through compromised packaging with instrument / procedure trays for specifically Orthopaedic and Spine trays during 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?**  
0.
9. **How many recorded instances of cancellations in surgery / procedure were caused through compromised packaging with instrument / procedure trays for specifically Orthopaedic and Spine trays during 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024?**  
0.
10. **Which product for sterilization barrier is utilised for instrument trays, please specify product of sterilization wrap and/or rigid container type?**  
Ridgid Container type – Asculap, Various size container type.  
Crepe Paper – Various sizes.  
Peel pouch / Peel Rell – Various sizes.  
L Bags.  
Alcoban (on request).
11. **If using rigid sterilization containers, what factors led to this decision, i.e. weight of tray, design of tray, mission critical tray, other?**  
We are not required to create new information to respond to a request or give judgement or opinion that is not already recorded. Furthermore, the Trust is not required to create new information or find answers to a question from staff that may happen to know. The Information Commissioner has confirmed this position in its online guidance on handling FOI requests.
12. **What method of transportation is used to move trays from storage areas to theatres, trolley, containers or other? Please specify type and make/model in use, if available?**  
The trays are mainly carried from the store location into theatre by staff or plastic stackers are used to transport these. The trays are Silber Trolley's. However the make and model is unavailable.

**13. Do Sterile Services / Theatres specify a weight limit for instrument trays either for wrap or rigid sterilization container?**

Load weight: dependant on tray contents can result in various weights. Maximum weight is 9kg.

**14. If in use, how do Sterile Services thermally disinfect (*decontaminate*) rigid sterilization containers – through Instrument Washer Disinfector, Cart / Container Washer Disinfector, Other**  
Wash thermal disinfection at 90 Degrees Celsius for a holding time of 1 minute.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner  
Chief Finance Officer

**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 123 111