

Information Governance

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Ref: FOI2017/4084

Date Received: 20th July 2017
Response Due: 17th August 2017

8th August 2017

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

We are now pleased to respond to your request for information under the FOI Act.

You asked:

1. What is the policy regarding the changing of a hospital privacy curtain in each NHS Hospital? How often are they changed on average per year? Is there any variation based on high or low risk areas/departments? For example: "Curtains are changed every 3, 4 or 6 months, or if visibly soiled or after a terminal clean, A&E curtains are changed more frequently at every two months. "

WWL have disposable curtains across its organisation in the clinical environment, it also has fabric curtains in some of its Out Patient areas, these curtains are dated and replaced every 6 months. There is an automatic replacement of any stained damaged curtains immediately.

2. Is the policy referenced in Q1 applied to all curtain types; Linen, disposable, disposable antimicrobial. Please specify any variation of policy based on curtain type.

WWL use a disposable antimicrobial product known as Microban; this is supplied through Marlux Medical. The Trust also has fabric curtains in use in some of its Out Patient areas.

3. What type (Linen, disposable, disposable antimicrobial) of privacy curtain is used, who is the producer/manufacturer? If multiple curtain products are present please list these.

Disposable, Anti-microbial.

4. Does an external company provide curtain services to the trust (supply of curtains, curtains changing, fitting and laundering)? If so, please state the company name, services provided, and curtain contract end/review date.

Marlux Medical Ltd, Disposable curtain supplier. Contracted until 31/03/2019 (with a further 12 month extension option).

5. What is the annual cost to each hospital for linen and laundry services for the privacy curtains? If disposable curtains are used, what is total annual spend for these, for approximately how many curtains?

Disposable curtains total annual cost - £68,247

Fabric curtains total annual cost - £1,959.12

Q5 – Refusal Notice – Quantity of curtains.

Commercially sensitive information relating to the price paid per item has not been disclosed here as we consider that Section 43 (2) 'prejudice to the commercial interests of any party' of the FOI act is engaged. Disclosure of this information could be commercially detrimental to the Trust and companies acting on our behalf and result in less competitive prices for services. The likely consequence of this would be increased cost for service provision to the Trust. We have considered how the public interest might apply, and although recognising that there is a strong public interest in openness, there is a greater public interest in ensuring an ability to obtain best value for money

6. How many privacy curtains are in use in each hospital within the trust? Please state compared to the number of beds for each hospital.

We do not hold this information as the curtains are purchased via a single cost centre.

7. What proportion of curtain spend per year is through the NHS supply chain? Please state values in GBP.
£68,247

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,



Andrew Foster
Chief Executive

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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, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF