



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-171

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Sterile Services Problems.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 The requested information is for years 2012/13-2017/18 on the following questions:**

- **Is decontamination/sterilization handled in-house or outsourced?**
- **What is the total number of trays process on a daily/monthly/yearly basis?**
- **How much does it cost to process and deliver trays?**
- **How much time is taken fully process one tray?**
- **How many times a day are surgical trays collected and processed?**
- **How many individual instruments are cleaned?**
- **How many times can an individual instrument be reused?**
- **What are the different surgical tray dimensions?**
- **What is the cost of the surgical equipment?**
- **How much staff is required to process surgical trays?**

A1 Please see below:

Is decontamination/sterilization handled in-house or outsourced?	Decontamination / sterilisation is handled in house
What is the total number of trays process on a daily/monthly/yearly basis?	Total number of tray processed in year: 2014/15 is 175,458 Royal Stoke only - the remaining years are for both sites: 2015/16 = 208,103 2016/17 = 210,455 2017/18 = 210,973
How much does it cost to process and deliver trays?	We are unable to provide this information as this varies and is dependent upon the number and type of instruments in a tray
How much time is taken fully process one tray?	We are unable to provide this information as this is dependent upon on the number and complexity of instruments within a given tray.
How many times a day are surgical trays collected and processed?	This can be once a day or up to 12 times per day dependent upon on the area.

How many individual instruments are cleaned?	Information not held
How many times can an individual instrument be reused?	This can vary; as some instruments are single use, some have a limited life (actual number stated by the manufacturer) and some can be used for many years.
What are the different surgical tray dimensions?	We use mainly 250 x 250 / 250 x 500 / 500 x 500
What is the cost of the surgical equipment?	We are unable to provide this information as this varies widely dependent upon the complexity of the device, a needle holder would cost around £75 but a surgical power tool can cost several thousand
How much staff is required to process surgical trays?	We are unable to provide this information as this varies dependent upon the amount of trays being processed and the complexity of the devices.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Yours,

Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**

