



FOI Statement

21 February 2019

FOI Request – I would like to know whether hospitals within your foundation trust [include]:

- a) nitrite-cured ham in their meals
- b) other processed meats containing nitrites in their meals, including but not limited to bacon, salami or chorizo.

Response: This response is based upon the catering services delivered by ISS Healthcare. The Trust may have other providers, i.e. commercial retail units.

a) Ham features in moderation as a protein base for salads and sandwiches and also in compound dishes such as pea and ham soup, or chicken and ham pie. We offer a choice of salads and sandwiches at every meal time so there is always an alternative should a patient, visitor or member of staff require it.

b) For patients, bacon is available only as a special dietary request (often as part of a cooked breakfast offer) that is prescribed by a Trust Dietitian usually for nutritionally vulnerable patients (those identified as being at high risk of malnutrition) to support their increased energy and protein requirements. However, bacon is available, as a choice in staff and retail areas when, and where, appropriate.

Fresh and frozen Red Tractor sausages provided to ISS do not contain nitrates.

Salami, chorizo, pastrami and other processed meats are not usually featured on our patient menu and therefore not served to patients but may be available as a choice on staff or retail menus.

Sodium Nitrite (E250) is an essential ingredient within the cure used to produce gammon, ham and bacon and acts as a preservative, inhibiting the growth of bacterial spores that cause botulism and slows down the development of rancidity and off-odours.

-Ends-

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**As at October 31, 2018*