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Request for Information Reference: 02.19.48

Direct line: 01325 743700
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Email only

19 March 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 21 February 2019 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding gaseous and intravenous anaesthetic agents. Specifically you requested information as follows:

I would like to know the total volume and total amount spent individually for each of the following agents sevoflurane, desflurane, isoflurane, nitrous oxide, and propofol per year between 2006 and 2018 as shown below:

- 1. Total (annual) volume purchased for each agent (incl. sevoflurane, desflurane, isoflurane, nitrous oxide, and propofol) per year for 2006-2018 (in millilitres or litres)?***
- 2. Total (annual) volume used for each agent per year for 2006-2018 (in millilitres or litres)?***
- 3. Total (annual) amount spent on each agent per year for 2006-2108 (in pounds sterling)?***

If it is easier to provide another unit of measure, please provide details so that I can calculate the volume. Also, please state whether the total amount spent includes or excludes VAT.

If not violating commercial sensitivity, please also include who the manufacturers/suppliers are.

I have attached a spreadsheet to fill in the data I requested.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

1. Total (annual) volume purchased for each agent (incl. sevoflurane, desflurane, isoflurane, nitrous oxide, and propofol) per year for 2006-2018 (in millilitres or litres)?

Answer: Please see the attached spreadsheet. The records only go as far back as October 2010 the Trust does not have records dating back any further on our system. The Trust can also only provide detail with regards to question 1 for everything but the Nitrous Oxide.

To gather the information relating to nitrous oxide would require a manual trawl through invoices across 3 different organisations (CDDFT, SCL and ISS), as purchasing is done differently on each site and would take a member of staff a number of days. Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

2. Total (annual) volume used for each agent per year for 2006-2018 (in millilitres or litres)?

Answer: For sevoflurane, desflurane, isoflurane and propofol please see attached spreadsheet.

With regards to the numbers of cylinders of nitrous oxide purchased there is no central record where the information is kept. To gather this information we would have to undertake a manual trawl through thousands of invoices which would take a member of staff a number of days. Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

3. Total (annual) amount spent on each agent per year for 2006-2108 (in pounds sterling)?

Answer: The Trust is unable to provide both the volume and cost as this would allow calculation of the confidential contract prices. We are unable to provide the information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

Section 43 (2) exempts from disclosure the following:

(2) Information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our

disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer