

Date: 19 March 2019

Re: Freedom of Information Request
Ref: 55- 2019

Thank you for your email dated 21st February 2019 requesting information regarding gaseous and intravenous anaesthetic agents.

The information that you require is as follows:

I am writing to ask about gaseous and intravenous anaesthetic agents used across your Trust. In particular, 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:

- Total (annual) volume purchased for EACH agent (incl. sevoflurane, desflurane, isoflurane, nitrous oxide, and propofol) PER YEAR for 2006-2018 (in millilitres or litres).

Please see Appendix 1 - Please note, the Trust follows best practice guidelines in relation to the retention of accounting information which is a retention period of 7 years and as such we are unable to provide this information before 2011/12.

- Total (annual) volume used for EACH agent PER YEAR for 2006-2018 (in millilitres or litres).

As above

- Total (annual) amount spent on EACH agent PER YEAR for 2006-2108 (in pounds sterling).

The Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU) procures medicines on behalf of the NHS. The prices offered by contractors on CMU contracts are commercially confidential and contractors require CMU to agree not to divulge these prices. CMU Contract prices do not belong to the Trust and hence are not our property to divulge.

Section 43 of the FOIA states 'information is exempt information if it constitutes a trade secret' and 'if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

When applying Section 43 we have to apply the public interest in withholding/disclosing this information. The use of this exemption is to be carefully considered.

The factors in favour of disclosure of this information, including the general public interest and greater transparency and accountability, were carefully weighed against the need to allow suppliers and organisations the space to conduct their lawful business competitively and without fear of disclosure of sensitive commercial information. On this basis, the Trust feels that the information requested is justifiably exempt under Section 43 of the Act.

If you require any further information on the costing of these agents, please contact CMU directly.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on the email address provided below.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for this to be investigated internally.

If you are dissatisfied with the information you have received, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Both processes will be handled in accordance with our Trust's Freedom of Information Policy and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Internal investigation and internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Freedom of Information Review, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 4JY

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal investigation/review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

In order for us to ensure customer satisfaction and to monitor compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we would be grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to complete a short feedback form via the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/H39RFMM>

Appendix 1

SEVOFLURANE Inhalation Anaesthetic		Volume Purchased	Volume Used				
2011/12		15 x 250ml Bottles	15 x 250ml Bottles				
2012/13		36 x 250ml Bottles	36 x 250ml Bottles				
2013/14		33 x 250ml Bottles	33 x 250ml Bottles				
2014/15		33 x 250ml Bottles	33 x 250ml Bottles				
MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE		Volume Purchased	Volume Used				
2011/12		0	0				
2012/13		MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368110 SIZE E x 2	MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368110 SIZE E x 2				
		MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368120 SIZE G x 5	MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368120 SIZE G x 5				
2013/14		MEDICAL EQUANOX (NITROUS & OXYGEN 50/50 367115) SIZE F x 1	MEDICAL EQUANOX (NITROUS & OXYGEN 50/50 367115) SIZE F x 1				
		MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368110 SIZE E x 10	MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368110 SIZE E x 10				
		MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368120 SIZE G x 4	MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368120 SIZE G x 4				
2014/15		MEDICAL EQUANOX (NITROUS & OXYGEN 50/50 367115) SIZE F x 12	MEDICAL EQUANOX (NITROUS & OXYGEN 50/50 367115) SIZE F x 12				
		MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368110 SIZE E x 4	MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368110 SIZE E x 4				
		MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368120 SIZE G x 6	MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 368120 SIZE G x 6				
PROPOFOL (1%) 200 mg in 20mL Injection		Volume Purchased	Volume Used				
2011/12		5 x 20mL ampoule Pack x 51 packs	5 x 20mL ampoule Pack x 51 packs				
2012/13		5 x 20mL ampoule Pack x 80 packs	5 x 20mL ampoule Pack x 80 packs				
2013/14		5 x 20mL ampoule Pack x 82 packs	5 x 20mL ampoule Pack x 82 packs				
2014/15		5 x 20mL ampoule Pack x 68 packs	5 x 20mL ampoule Pack x 68 packs				
ISOFLURANE Inhalation Anaesthetic		Volume Purchased	Volume Used				
2011/12		0	0				
2012/13		250 mL Bottle x 1	250 mL Bottle x 1				
2013/14		250 mL Bottle x 4	250 mL Bottle x 4				
2014/15		0	0				

Sevoflurane	Volume Purchased	Volume Used*
2016	7500ml	7500ml
2017	7500ml	6250ml
2018	6000ml	5000ml

Nitrous Oxide:
Supplier unable to provide details

Propofol	Volume Purchased	Volume Used
2016	680ml	680ml
2017	1380ml	1340ml
2018	1120ml	1160ml

Isoflurane	Volume Purchased	Volume Used
2016	0	0
2017	1500ml	250ml
2018	0	500ml