

Our Ref: 319
May 2024

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Under the *Freedom of Information Act*, I would like to ask that you answer the following questions that relate to spending on absorbent continence products within your NHS Trust in the last 5 years.

For context, the information requested relates to the NHS Bladder and Bowel or Continence Services, which provide absorbent continence pads to adult community patients. The individual trust data is requested.

1. In your Trust is there a “cap/limit” on the number of absorbent continence pads provided per patient in each 24-hour period, if so, what is the number?

NO

2. How much has your Trust actually spent on absorbent continence products during each of the last 5 financial years, and what is the annual budget for absorbent continence products during each of those years? Please give a figure for each year 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23.

Year	SCCL spend EClass CXP and VHP
18-19	£136,133.16
19-20	£112,929.07
20-21	£103,503.39
21-22	£113,601.38
22-23	£166,878.77

We budget at account code level rather than product level, therefore budgets are not available for these items’.

3. What is the total annual number of patients in receipt of absorbent continence products in your trust? Please give a figure for each year 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23.

We will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to [locate, retrieve, extract] information in scope of your request would involve extensive administrative work . We would have to manually search through each patients notes. Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, We have estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to carry out a manual search to locate, retrieve, and extract all the information you have requested. In this situation the associated cost would therefore exceed the appropriate fee limit of £450 set out under Freedom of Information & Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007.

The fee limit specified in regulations for NHS trusts represents the cost of one person spending 2½ working days at a rate of £25 per hour determining whether the Trust holds the information sought and then locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

If possible, please can I request that you provide this information by populating the attached excel sheet with the relevant data.



**Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

Our Ref: 319
May 2024