

Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. What number of Healthcare Workers reported an incidence of exposure to blood and body fluids (BBF) in theatre during a total hip or knee replacement, by year since 2021?

2021 1
2022 1
2023 1
2024 1

2. The average cost to treat a Healthcare Worker with a reported incidence of exposure to blood and body fluids (BBF).

After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that we do not hold the information you have requested.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are only required to provide information that we hold at the time of the request. Unfortunately, we do not possess the information you are seeking.

3. Please provide details of the number of working days lost due to MSD injuries by members of staff working in theatres, by year since 2021. What is the cost of losing these workdays, by year since 2021?

Year	Absence FTE
2021	1304.35
2022	1067.33
2023	1003.64
2024	1418.67

4. What is the cost per tonne to dispose of clinical waste?

After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that we are unable to provide the information you have requested. Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows for information to be exempt from disclosure if it constitutes a trade secret or would likely prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Explanation of the Exemption:

Section 43(2) states:

Information is exempt information 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)

We have determined that the release of the requested information would likely prejudice the commercial interests of Veolia.

Contract Information Covered Under Exemption:

1. Pricing and Cost Information

This includes detailed pricing models, value of contracts currently in place, cost breakdowns, profit margins, and other sensitive financial data. Disclosure of this information would allow competitors to undercut our pricing strategies and would result in significant competitive harm to our business operations.

Justification

- **Likelihood of Competitive Harm:** The release of this information would cause substantial harm by enabling competitors to gain insight into our pricing, business strategies, and proprietary technologies. Such disclosure would erode our market position and affect our ability to compete effectively.
- **Voluntary Submission:** In cases where the information was submitted voluntarily (e.g., as part of a bid or proposal), it was provided with the understanding that it would not be publicly disclosed, and doing so would violate the confidentiality of that arrangement.
- **Commercial Sensitivity:** The information in the identified sections is not publicly available and has been protected from disclosure to ensure the commercial success of the business.

Public Interest Test:

Although Section 43 is a qualified exemption and requires a public interest test, we have conducted this test and concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. While we recognize the importance of transparency, in this case, the need to protect sensitive commercial information is paramount.

5. How many tonnes of clinical waste did the Trust send to incineration, by year since 2021?

NOTE: The annual returns from 2021 to 2024 cannot be compared (as the question is asked) due to a change in waste contractor / provider during 2023

and subsequently a different method of treating clinical waste from Autoclaving to an ERF system.

I have noted the HTI clinical waste incineration which can be compared.

2021= 44.256

2022= 55.629

2023= 60.446

2024= 51.339

6. Could you please provide data on reported instances where a polyp sample was taken during an endoscopy procedure but was not successfully transferred to the sample collection container? If possible, please include the number of such instances per year since 2021.

After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that we do not hold the information you have requested.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are only required to provide information that we hold at the time of the request. Unfortunately, we do not possess the information you are seeking.

7. Could you please provide information on the average cost to readmit a patient following an instance where a polyp was taken during an endoscopy procedure but was not successfully transferred to the sample collection container ('lost polyp')?

After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that we do not hold the information you have requested.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are only required to provide information that we hold at the time of the request. Unfortunately, we do not possess the information you are seeking.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance

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Our Ref: 67

JAN 2025

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

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