Our Ref:119 June 2026

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to the supply and availability of wound care consumables within your Trust, specifically swabs (sterile and non-sterile), cotton wool, bandages (including tubular and elasticated varieties), and non-woven balls and swabs.

1. Current Stock and Usage

- What is the current stock level of swabs, cotton wool, and bandages held by your Trust? Please break it down by product category where possible (e.g. sterile gauze swabs, non-sterile gauze swabs, x-ray detectable swabs, tubular bandages, non-woven products).

- What is your Trust's monthly usage or consumption of the above products by volume since May 2025 to present?

Unable to provide current holding but provided our maximum stock levels to what we order to.

product	max level (uoi)	year usage (uoi)	Ave monthly usage (uoi)
sterile swabs	41135	470660	39222
non sterile	6700	58400	4867
xray detectable	5385	34155	2846
cotton wool sterile	4200	13400	1117
cotton wool non sterile	23000	305900	25492
conforming bandage	3050	42960	3580
triangular bandage	550	3200	267
compression bandages	4664	30516	2543
stockinette	606	1655	138
light support bandages	2494	14514	1210

2. Supply Disruption Impact

- Has the supply disruption from any of these products resulted in any procedures being delayed, cancelled, or modified? If yes, please provide the number of affected procedures by month from January 2023 to the present.

The Trust does not hold a centrally recorded dataset that identifies procedures delayed, cancelled or modified specifically as a result of shortages or supply disruptions relating to swabs, cotton wool, bandages or non-woven products.

To determine whether any procedures were affected for this reason, the Trust would need to review records held across multiple clinical services, theatres, outpatient departments and incident reporting systems. This would require a manual examination of a substantial number of records to establish whether a delay, cancellation or modification occurred, whether it was attributable to a supply issue, and, if so, which product was involved and the month in which the event occurred.

The Trust estimates that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The appropriate limit for NHS organisations is £450, representing 18 hours of staff time calculated at a rate of £25 per hour, as prescribed by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Accordingly, the Trust is refusing this part of the request under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under its duty to advise and assist under Section 16 of the Act, the Trust can confirm that it does not routinely record or report procedure delays, cancellations or modifications by specific consumable product type.

- Has your Trust raised any formal incident reports internally or with NHS England/NHS Supply Chain as a result of this supply issue? If yes, how many in the past 12 months?

No

3. Stockpiling and Contingency

- Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for swabs (sterile and non-sterile), cotton wool, bandages (including tubular and elasticated varieties), and non-woven balls and swabs? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold.

We do not have a minimum stock level- we order upto the maximum level at each stock take. No formal contingency plan although we do have a agreed alternative list for stock issues.

- Has your Trust increased stock levels of surgical sutures as a precautionary measure in the past 12 months?

no

If yes, by how many units did you increase stock levels?

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted

within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to d.wraith@nhs.net.

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/