

Date: Monday, 11th November 2019  
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4077

Sid Watkins Building  
Lower Lane  
Fazakerley  
Liverpool L9 7BB  
Tel: 01515253611  
Fax: 01515295500  
Direct Line: 01515563037

**Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4077**

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 18th October 2019.

Your request was as follows:

Question 1:

Please could I kindly request information in respect to the volume (in millilitres) per annum of surgical dyes that you purchase. Please state from the list below which dye the trust uses.

- Blue Marker,
- Patent Blue/Sulfan Blue,
- Indigo Carmine,
- Methylene Blue (methylthioninium chloride),
- Indocyanine Green
- Toluidine Blue

Here at The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) we use Patent Blue/Sulfan Blue, Methylene Blue (methylthioninium chloride), and Indocyanine Green.

We have purchased the following:

Patent Blue/Sulfan Blue - 2017 - 240ML, 2018 - 90ML, 2019 - None.

Methylene Blue (methylthioninium chloride) - 2017 - 300ML, 2018 - None, 2019 - 200ML.

Indocyanine Green - 2017- 200ML, 2018- 50ML, 2019 - 100ML.

Question 2:

Please could you provide information on which surgical specialties use a surgical dye; and from the list above which dye do they prefer?

Here at WCFT we use Indocyanine Green this in Cranial tumour and Spinal tumour surgeries. We no longer use any of the above blue dyes.

Question 3:

Please could you provide information in respect to how many procedures requires a blue dye, per annum?

Here at WCFT we have stopped using blue dye. However the amount of procedures require blue dye, per annum when this was in use as follows:

2017/2018 - 99

2018/2019 - 21

2019 - present - 5

Question 4:

Please could you provide information in respect to which procedures require a blue dye, the volume used (in millilitres) per procedure, and the code associated with each procedure, per annum?

Procedure : IBACKY

Volume : Between 2-3mm

Question 5:

Please could you provide information in respect to which purchasing route the prefer dye is obtained?

Patent Blue/Sulfan Blue, - Purchased from Mawdsley Clinical Service.

Methylene Blue (methylthionium chloride), - Purchased from AAH Pharmaceuticals.

Indocyanine Green - Purchased from Kimal PLC.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. 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 the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

**Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4077 in any future communications.**

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

Yours sincerely

*Mike Burns*

**Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information**