

Date: Friday, 19th May 2023
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 5704

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5704

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 21st April 2023.

Your request was as follows:

1. How much has your Trust spent on specialist bariatric equipment for obese/bariatric patients (patients over 160kg) during the last five financial years? Please give a figure for each year: 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23.

I can confirm that the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust has spent the following on specialist bariatric equipment:-

18/19 - £142,543.10

19/20 - £232,040.48

20/21 - £252,485.21

21/22 - £237,755.80

22/23 - £234,804.80

2. How many patients needed special adaptations due to their weight in the past 12 months?

The WCFT has had 6 patients needing specialist equipment over the last 12 months.

3. Please give a breakdown of the amounts spent by the Trust by the type of specialist bariatric equipment.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold the information you have requested. Therefore we cannot provide this information.

Under the FOIA, we are not required to create this information in order to answer your request. I should explain that the FOIA is to do with transparency of information held by public authorities. It gives an individual the right to access recorded information held by public authorities. The FOIA does not require public authorities to generate information, or to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.

4. How many bariatric beds does the Trust own?

I can confirm that the WCFT do not own any beds but rent these as needed from Medstrom.

5. How many bariatric fridges does the Trust own?

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold this information. However, Section 16 of the FOIA places a duty on us to provide help and assistance where possible and I am able to advise you that: this information can be obtained from Aintree University Hospital.

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

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

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 5704 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 by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information