

Ref. No: 2654
Date: 30/06/26
Subject: Procurement data

REQUEST

This is a Freedom of Information request regarding the procurement of items.

For the past three years for which full data is available, could you please provide procurement data including cost and number of units for the following items purchased by the Trust:

1. Scissors, including surgical and disposable and single-use versions.
2. Forceps, including artery or tissue forceps.
3. Surgical clamps.
4. Basic hollowware, including gallipots, kidney dishes, instrument trays and bowls.
5. Single-use tourniquets.
6. Harmonic shears.

For each item category, please provide for each year:

- a) Total number of units procured
- b) Total spend (£)
- c) Where recorded in procurement systems, whether the items were designated as single-use/disposable.

Additionally, for the same three financial years, please provide:

5. Total number of the following mobility aids procured:
 - Crutches
 - Walking frames
 - Walking sticks

And for each of the above mobility aids:

- a) Total annual spend (£)
- b) If recorded centrally, the number of units refurbished or reissued through reuse schemes

RESPONSE

Following a thorough assessment, we regret to inform you that Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is unable to comply with your request, as doing so would exceed the cost limit set out under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit, which is currently set at £450 for NHS organisations. This equates to 18 hours of staff time, calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In this case, fulfilling your request would require checking individual patients records and the Trust has estimated this time to be in excess of 505 hours. This involves locating, retrieving, and extracting the relevant information. This exceeds the 18-hour threshold, even with reasonable efforts to narrow the scope.

We are therefore applying Section 12 of the Act and will not be proceeding with the request in its current form.