

Ref. No: 2461
Date: 25/03/26
Subject: Sluice room equipment

REQUEST

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information relating to infection prevention practices within your Trust, specifically in relation to the use, servicing, and management of sluice room equipment (bedpan washers and/or macerators).

1. Who is the current supplier of your macerators and/or bedpan washers?
2. How many sluice machines do you have in total across the trust/hospital?
3. Who is responsible for servicing and maintaining these machines (e.g. the original equipment manufacturer, a third-party service provider, or in-house teams)?
4. When does the current contract for the supply and/or servicing of this equipment expire?
5. Which department or role within the Trust is responsible for managing these contracts?

If any of the requested information is held in multiple formats or contracts, please provide the information in the form most readily available.

RESPONSE

1. Who is the current supplier of your macerators and/or bedpan washers?
St Helens - DDC DOLPHIN (some existing machines are Haigh)
Southport & Ormskirk - Vernacare Ltd
Whiston- Haigh
2. How many sluice machines do you have in total across the trust/hospital?
St Helens - 8
Southport & Ormskirk – 38 units installed across both sites
Whiston- 39

3. Who is responsible for servicing and maintaining these machines (e.g. the original equipment manufacturer, a third-party service provider, or in-house teams)?
St Helens - DDC DOLPHIN
Southport & Ormskirk - Vernacare Ltd
Whiston- DDC DOLPHIN
4. When does the current contract for the supply and/or servicing of this equipment expire?
St Helens – 5 years
Southport & Ormskirk – 3 years
Whiston- 5 years
5. Which department or role within the Trust is responsible for managing these contracts?
This varies from site to site due to differing contractual arrangements. For example, some sites have hard and soft facilities management arrangements incorporated within PFI arrangements. As a general point of contact, please contact procurement@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk

Note 1

The Trust publishes contract information, contract pipeline information and contract award information in accordance with procurement legislation applicable to the contract. Publication location is dependent upon applicable legislation to the procurement activity but includes Contracts Finder, Official Journal of the European Union and Find a Tender Service websites.

Additionally, the Trust's Procurement Department periodically publish extracts of our contracts' register on our website. This contains supplier information, start and end dates, financial values, procurement route, extension options and other information. Therefore, contract information is either publicly available or will be made available when updated. This means that section 21 or section 22 exemption of Freedom of Information Act applies. The Procurement Department's website is linked here:-

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Freedom of Information