

Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-052024-000843

Date: 23/05/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Request**

**Please complete the table below relating to spending on absorbent continence products within your NHS Trust in the last 5 years.**

**Response**

**Q1. In your Trust is there a “cap/limit” on the number of absorbent continence pads provided per patient in each 24-hour period, if so, what is the number?**

Due to the improved absorbency of the excellent Abena product we use 3 products in 24 hours should be safe and effective for heavy incontinence providing the correct size/ absorbency is prescribed based on fluid intake. For 3 in 24 hours to be enough - the pad must not be changed prematurely- only changed when the blue indicator line is complete. The high absorbency pads hold 800 mls. We recommend a fluid intake of 1500-2000 mls. In most cases this should be enough. If the nurse doing the comprehensive assessment deems it clinical required for 4 pads a day this can be prescribed and will be authorized by the continence team nurses if appropriate.

**Q2. How much has your Trust actually spent on absorbent continence products during each of the last 5 financial years, and what is the annual budget for absorbent continence products during each of those years? Please give a figure for each year 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23.**

| Year  | Budget  | Spend   |
|-------|---------|---------|
| 18/19 | 791,540 | 833,222 |
| 19/20 | 670,952 | 811,969 |
| 20/21 | 776,735 | 798,627 |

|       |         |         |
|-------|---------|---------|
| 21/22 | 787,233 | 796,480 |
| 22/23 | 774,441 | 894,909 |

**Q3. What is the total annual number of patients in receipt of absorbent continence products in your trust? Please give a figure for each year 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23.**

This data cannot be provided as providing the cost would reveal commercial in confidence contract pricing arrangements so as per FOI Exemption 43 (2): 'Commercial Interests: The level of competition currently experienced within the NHS is such that the release of detailed information specifically relating to service level reporting detailing capacity and funding would have a prejudicial impact on the Trust resulting in it being less competitive.

Therefore, the Trust wishes to use Freedom of Information exemption Section 43 (2) Commercial Interests (where information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager  
Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ  
Email: [dgft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.dpo@nhs.net)

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team  
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**