

Request title: Bariatric Equipment

Date of Response: 25th September 2015

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

My FOI request relates to the issue of obesity and people being larger/overweight.

1. How much has the Trust spent on bariatric/specialist equipment over the last 5 years?*

**including the amount spent on equipment for larger patients, AND on the adapting of existing NHS facilities to cater for larger patients (eg hospital beds, chairs, corridors, toilets etc).

The Trust can advise that much of the standard equipment purchased by the Trust has a high safe working load (SWL). For example all standard replacement hoists have a SWL of 228kg (36 stone) and the standard Trust beds and mattresses have a SWL of 250kg (39 stone); therefore the weight of most patients are within the range of the SWL of standard Trust equipment.

The Trust can also advise that it does not have a centralised bariatric equipment database. Information regarding purchases is held on the Trust's electronic procurement system and the fixed asset register; however the information on these systems is not held in a format that makes it possible to easily identify and extract the information requested. A search could be undertaken using key word searches to identify specific items such as 'operating table', however, the systems do not hold details of the safe working load of an item. In order to establish this it would be necessary to cross check purchases against other information that is held elsewhere within the Trust. A search could also be undertaken using the word 'bariatric' or 'extra-large', but this would not identify all bariatric products purchased as the term 'bariatric' is not always used for such products. Some products are for bariatric use and do not state so; i.e. some products are capable of handling bariatric requirements within their normal operating envelope and are therefore not specifically bariatric, but may have been purchased for specific bariatric use. It would not be possible to identify these products.

In order to confirm and verify all the relevant equipment for your request (to produce a comprehensive list), every item purchased by the Trust would need to be individually checked. To undertake this piece of work would take in excess of the appropriate limit set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The appropriate limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Consequently, the Trust is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to retrieve the above information (see section 12(1)).

2. Please could you provide a yearly breakdown of these figures (2010-2015).

As above.