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22nd July 2025

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[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: IV Fluids

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

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FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. Over the last 5 years how many IV fluid bags have been bought/used by your trust (can you please give in X bags/year)?	2020 (July onwards) - 37794 2021 - 61521 2022 - 77983 2023 - 77079 2024 - 81733 2025 (ytd) - 43435			
2. For the amounts in answer 1, can you advise what different types were used ie what was the saline concentration, different size bags, any bags containing pre-mixed medication other than saline etc?		Yes	Section 12	<p>Section 12 of the Act allows the Trust to refuse to deal with any requests where we estimate that responding to the request would exceed the cost limit. We have identified that question 2 will exceed the cost limit. For public authorities the cost limit is £450 (18 hours). If responding to one part of a request would exceed the cost limit, we do not have to provide a response to any other parts of the request. Therefore, the estimated cost of processing your request is £10,858.75. This charge has been calculated in accordance with section 13 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information Fees Regulations.</p> <p>In order to locate this information, we would need to review the individual packs. It is estimated that 100</p>

				<p>packs could be reviewed per hour. We estimate that the cost of satisfying your request will be £10,858.75 (434.35 hours x £25 per hour).</p> <p>Under section 16 of the Act we are obliged to advise you to refine your request to narrow the scope in order to bring it within the appropriate limit. Can we suggest that the timescales for question 2 are reduced, for example, to a calendar month. If the timescales are reduced to a month, the Trust will be able to respond to all of your questions. If you are unable to reduce the scope of the request the Trust will be unable to continue processing your request until the fee is paid. If you wish to proceed with this request the fee will need to be paid within three calendar months. If the fee is not received by this date, I shall take it that you do not wish to pursue this request and will consider the request closed.</p>
3. What brands/makes of IVbags do you purchase? Are they bought directly from the manufacturer or via a distributor?	<p>Primarily purchased via the manufacturer.</p> <p>Baxters and Fresenius</p>			

4. Is there a contract in place for purchasing IV Fluids, and if so when does the current contract expire?	National/Regional Contract 31/05/2026			
5. What is the average unit price for normal saline solution? Has this price changed in the last 5 years?	Commercially Sensitive information	Yes	Section 43	<p>Section 43 - Commercial interests</p> <p>It is our opinion that the information sought in relation to costs is exempt from disclosure pursuant to section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). S43(2) relates to information that is exempt from disclosure that could have a detrimental effect on the commercial interests of "...any person." The Trust considers that at this time the commercial interests of the Trust, third parties and overall the NHS could be detrimentally impacted upon. Please see the public interest test below.</p> <p>Public Interest Test</p> <p>We recognise that the disclosure of the information sought in relation to the costs involved would provide transparency in the use of public funds by the Trust and the NHS in general. It would also assist the general populous with transparency in decision making by the Trust and their transactions with third parties.</p>

				<p>Conversely to the factors demonstrated above in favour of disclosure, it is felt that the Trust, third party suppliers and overall the NHS could be disadvantaged should the information sought in relation to costs being made available. Suppliers compete with one another in a competitive environment and to provide the value of the costs involved may allow rival companies to undercut the Trust current suppliers, lead to loss of confidence by suppliers and customers and could cause significant harm and disadvantage to the Trust and suppliers.</p> <p>The disclosure could also adversely impact on any on-going or future procurement processes for the reasons outlined above. Any disclosure by the Trust could also in future discourage the provision of commercially sensitive information necessary to respond properly to the Trusts Invitation To Tender, and would be likely to affect and undermine the Trusts bargaining position in any future procurement process or negotiations. Ultimately civil action could be taken against the Trust should information be disclosed that adversely affects the commercial interests of current and/or future suppliers.</p>
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				<p>As a result, it is in the Trust's opinion that this sufficiently demonstrates the prejudice which could be caused through disclosure.</p> <p>Balance Test</p> <p>It is important to bear in mind that any disclosure under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the public at large and not just to the applicant. It is recognised that there is a general public interest in the Trust being open and transparent. However, it is not believed that this public interest is served in disclosure for damage that would be caused as outlined above.</p> <p>Therefore, – the Trust considers that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as the public interest does not outweigh the prejudice as set out above. Further guidance can be accessed from the Information Commissioner's Office https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guidance-index/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/section-43-commercial-interests/</p>
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I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, 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: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

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