

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 23-544**

10 August 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

**1. How many sharps bins are used across the trust each year, by size and colour?**

The Trust has various bins colours for the disposal of sharps, this in line with regulations. There are purple lidded bins, yellow lidded bins, orange lidded bins both single use and reusable. Bin sizes come from 2.5l, 5l, 25l, 30l, 60l. The Trust used around 91334 sharps bins.

**2. Do you reuse the sharps bins?**

Yes, in one of our hospital sites.

**3. If you reuse them, do they have to travel far for processing or is it done on-site?**

Approximately 200 miles.

**4. What sizes and how many do you reuse, and how do you know you are getting the same sharps bins back to your site?**

There is a collection and auditing process that supports the management of the reusable sharps bins.

**5. How much CO2 does this save?**

The Trust is currently assessing the impacts of this practice on our CO2 emissions.

**6. Does the reusing process use a lot of water and detergent?**

Yes, but not large amounts.

**7. Is it just the base of the bin that is reused, or is it the whole bin including the lid?**

The whole bin.

**8. Is there a life cycle assessment available for this?**

No.

## **9. What do you think the future holds?**

We do not hold this information.

### **Aprons:**

**1. It seems as though every nurse, doctor etc changes the plastic apron for every patient. How many aprons does the trust use each year?**

524,420 aprons

**2. Are these recycled, go to land fill or incinerated?**

Aprons are disposed in accordance with patient treatments, if the apron is not contaminated is recycled, if the apron comes from the treatment of an infectious patient will be disposed through the alternative treatment process.

**3. Does this emit a high level of CO2 when they are disposed of?**

The Trust is currently assessing the impacts of this practice on our CO2 emissions.

**4. How much does this cost the trust each year – for the bins and the disposal?**

High Temperature Incineration - £441,713.85

Alternative Treatment - £233,552.342

Offensive Waste - £142,554.00

General Waste - £69,313.00

Recycling - £178,190.00

**5. Is there a life cycle assessment for the aprons?**

No.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, 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:

Data Protection Officer  
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

### Publication

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To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**