

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-705

3 September 2025

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information held by your organisation relating to sharps waste produced and managed within your NHS sites.

1. Classification & segregation

Guidance held by your organisation on sharps waste streams (e.g., orange, yellow, purple bins), including what types of items or material categories are intended for each stream.

We use yellow and purple sharp bins mainly, on very rare occasion we use orange sharp bins. Yellow sharp bins are used for infectious or potentially infectious sharp waste contaminated with medication or chemicals. Purple sharp bins are used for sharp contaminated with hazardous medication. Orange sharp bins are used for sharp contaminated with blood only.

2. EWC / LoW codes

European Waste Catalogue or List of Waste codes for each sharps waste stream held by your organisation.

Yellow sharp bins- 180103-180109

Purple sharps- 180108

Orange sharps-180103

3. Staff compliance

Information on how your organisation ensures staff correctly segregate sharps waste, including audits, monitoring, training verification, and reports of non-compliance held by your organisation.

We conduct internal waste audits; we also follow annual pre-acceptance waste audit and our sharp bin supplier conduct quarterly sharp bin audit including bin content audit at the waste disposal facilities.

4. Contractor standards & sterilisation

Policies or contracts with waste contractors covering sterilisation validation, handling, traceability, and any monitoring/audit protocols held by your organisation.

We have a waste collection contract with supplier in place to cover all above points, we also conduct annual Duty of Care audits.

5. Incidents / compliance issues

Instances recorded by your organisation of sharps waste containing non-compliant items in the past 5 years.

Due to nature of sharp waste, sharp bins are not audited.

6. Waste volume data

Aggregated annual tonnage of sharps waste over the past 3 years, by waste stream if available, as held by your organisation.

We don't record sharp waste per waste stream, we record as per disposal method, average tonnage of last 3 years of mixed sharp waste is 338.356 tonnes.

7. Pharmaceutical residues

Guidance or studies held by your organisation on pharmaceutical residues in sharps waste

None

8. Chemical / pharmaceutical composition

If your organisation has ever recorded or tested the pharmaceutical or chemical contents/residues of sharps waste bins, please provide a list of substances identified. If no such information has been recorded or tested, please confirm that no data is held.

Not applicable, no data available as no studies have been carried out.

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

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

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