

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/20/247
Waste produced by Health Board

Request details

I would like to request the information on the attached sheet concerning the waste produced by the Health Board from April 2019 to March 2020 inclusive. Having just completed your ERIC return, I do hope this proves to be a reasonably simple and non-time consuming exercise.

If the Health Board has more than one hospital site, I would be grateful if you could provide data for each site, however Health Board totals would provide a good understanding. I would prefer to receive these in electronic format, however, I am happy to receive them by post if that is more convenient.

It would be helpful if you were to provide any brief notes which might be necessary to understand the context of the information provided, although I recognise that you are not obliged to do this. If any of the questions require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 01628 501599. If you are not the appropriate authority for this request, or for part of it, please let me know as soon as is convenient.

Response Details

Please refer to the table below.

If easier, please use your ERIC return data for 2019-2020 to complete the questions below.

Name of Health Board:	Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (the UHB)
Number of sites managed by the Health Board:	64
In tonnes, how much general waste does the Health Board produce per annum?	1271.06
In tonnes, how much recycling does the Health Board produce per annum?	563.97
In tonnes, how much food waste does the Health Board produce per annum?	47.47

In total, how much does the Health Board spend, per annum, on general, food and recycling waste?	Section 43*
How much does the Health Board spend on confidential waste?	Section 43*
In tonnes, how much offensive waste (yellow sacks with black stripes) does the Health Board produce per annum?	600.79
In tonnes, how much alternative treatment waste (orange sacks) does the Health Board produce per annum?	855.24
In tonnes, how much incineration waste (sharps, pharmaceutical, anatomical, cytotoxic/static and yellow sacks) does the Health Board produce per annum?	399.24
In total, how much does the Health Board spend, per annum, on clinical waste?	Section 43*
Does the Health Board have a total waste management contract or are different aspects tendered separately?	Different aspects tendered separately
When did your contract start? (If different contracts please provide data for each contract)	Clinical Waste 01/04/2017 General & Mixed Recycling 01/09/2020
How long is your contract for? (i.e. 3 +1+1 or 5+1+1 etc.)	Clinical Waste – 31/03/2022 with the option to extend for up to 5 years. General & Mixed Recycling 31/08/2021

*After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers this information to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 43) Commercial Interests. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if:

- the information requested is a trade secret, or
- release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the UHB when deciding whether to disclose information because it considered that in doing so there could be a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of the company in question. As this is a qualified exemption, the UHB is required to complete a public interest test in deciding whether it is in the public's interest to withhold or disclose the information.

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of spending of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

Against disclosure: There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with agencies. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. It has been established above that releasing the information under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body (as upheld in ICO decision notice FS50473543 ICO v Royal Marsden Hospital Trust).

Decision: The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the supplier to which this information concerns. The UHB believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.