Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/360
Sterile Equipment

1. **Which supplier currently provides your surgical instrument decontamination chemicals for the Trust?**

   Serchem.

2. **With regards to surgical instrument decontamination in the Trust's Sterile Service Department (s), what percentage of instruments require rewashing?**

   From Apr 2021 - March 2022 the annual total of trays produced was 46,003, and the number of rejected sets due to being dirty was 258, which is a percentage of 0.56%.

   Please note: the numbers above relate solely to surgical instrument contamination excluding trays and supplements being made sterile and available.

3. **What is the cost of rewashing surgical instruments for the Trust in terms of time and resource?**

   Cardiff and Vale University Health Board does not hold this information.

4. **How often does contamination of surgical instruments interfere with or prevent a surgery from taking place?**

   In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

   The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees' regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

   However, under Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, the UHB can inform you that since 2017 there have been 3 incidents recorded on our Datix system.