

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/561
Single Use Tourniquets

This is a freedom of information request about purchasing data for Single Use Tourniquets, considering the following product types:

1 - Band Type Adult.

Both Adult and Paediatric.

2 - Button Type Fastening Adult quick release Single Button

Button Type Fastening Quick Release Single Button

3 - Button Type Fastening Paediatric quick release Single button

Please see above.

4 - Button Type Fastening Adult quick release Multi button fastening

Please see above.

5 - Pull Through Type Adult quick release pull through

Contracted line tourniquet, for VENEPUNCTURE/IV CANNULATION, single patient use, quick release, latex free

6 - Pull Through Type Paediatric quick release pull through

Please see above.

Considering the products above, could you please let me know:

a) How much the hospital current pay per unit of each product type?

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 both Cardiff University and the UHB. 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: It has been established that releasing the information sought under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with suppliers. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in suppliers 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.

b) what is the monthly usage per product type?

26,250 units Approx. per month

c) what are the brands used per product type?

Timesco Tournibutton, Anetic Aid Ltd of 110 units since January 2022.

d) how these products are purchased (NHS supply chain, direct with the supplier)?

Products purchased directly with the supplier.

A contract notice was published on 29th July 2021 for Vascular Access Accessories on which the above item was tendered. A contract award notice was published on 7th October 2022. Both notices were published on the Sell2Wales portal.