

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/382**

**Sharps bins and apron use**

**Information Requested:**

I would like to make an FOI request regarding Sharps Bins and the plastic aprons used by all the clinical staff.

This is because I am interested in how many are used and the environmental impact etc. I've also watched the fantastic NHS staff at work, which got me thinking.

Therefore, can you please tell me:

**Response Details:**

Sharps bins:

1. How many sharps bins are used across the trust each year, by size and colour?  
Please see attachment.
2. If you reuse them, do they have to travel far for processing or is it done on-site? Currently sharps bins are not reused therefore  
N/A.
3. What sizes and how many do you reuse, and how do you know you are getting the same sharps bins back to your site?  
N/A
4. How much CO2 does this save?  
N/A
5. Does the reusing process use a lot of water and detergent?  
N/A
6. Is it just the base of the bin that is reused, or is it the whole bin including the lid?  
N/A
7. Is there a life cycle assessment available for this?  
N/A
8. What do you think the future holds?

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information, under our Section 16 obligation the duty to provide advice and assistance the UHB can advise that we are proposing a trial of reusable sharps bins however no timescales have been agreed yet.

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?  
Please see attachment.
2. Are these recycled, go to land fill or incinerated?  
Aprons used in a clinical environment are incinerated via clinical waste.
3. Does this emit a high level of CO2 when they are disposed of?  
The UHB does not hold this information, under our Section 16 obligation the duty to provide advice and assistance the UHB can advise that we are unable to accurately quantify this information as there is a mixed approach to disposal.
4. How much does this cost the trust each year – for the bins and the disposal?  
The UHB does not hold this information, under our Section 16 obligation the duty to provide advice and assistance the UHB can advise that we are unable to accurately quantify this information as there is a mixed approach to disposal.
5. Is there a life cycle assessment for the aprons?  
No.