Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/432
Vascular Access Devices

Information Requested:

We would like to understand the volume purchased of certain vascular access devices along with the technologies used to support their insertion and would be most grateful if you could kindly provide the below information:

Information requested in respect of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICC)

Question 1a

Please can you kindly provide a purchasing export report detailing the following relevant to peripherally inserted central catheters:

- Manufacturer
- Brand
- Product Code
- Description
- Volume (in pieces)

Please could you provide this information for all supply routes (direct, NHS Supply Chain or other distributor) for the following time periods and name the files according to the year:

- 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022
- 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023
- 1st January 2024 – 31st June 2024

Question 1b

Do you use any of the following tip navigation systems and how many of each do you currently have within the Trust:

- BD Sherlock 3CG
- Vygon Pilot
- Other (please state)

Question 1c

In percentage terms, approximately what proportion of PICC placements per annum are being performed:

- Under fluoroscopy
- At the bed side
- Other (please state)

Question 1d

Which clinical area(s) or clinical roles insert PICC lines in your organisation?

Information requested in respect of Midline Catheters

Question 2a

Please can you kindly provide a purchasing export report detailing the following relevant to midline catheters:

- Manufacturer
- Brand
- Product Code
- Description
- Volume (in pieces)

Please could you provide this information for all supply routes (direct, NHS Supply Chain or other distributor) for the following time periods and name the files according to the year:

- 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022
- 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023
- 1st January 2024 – 31st June 2024

Question 2b

Which clinical area(s) or clinical roles insert Midline catheters lines in your organisation?

Information requested in respect of Implanted Access Ports and Port Access Needles

Question 3a

Please can you kindly provide a purchasing export report detailing the following relevant to implantable ports and port access needles:

- Manufacturer
- Brand
- Product Code
- Description
- Volume (in pieces)

Please could you provide this information for all supply routes (direct, NHS Supply Chain or other distributor) for the following time periods and name the files according to the year:

- 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022
- 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023
- 1st January 2024 – 31st June 2024

Question 3b

Which clinical area(s) or clinical roles implant ports in your organisation?

Response Details:

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 the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004. The UHB has therefore relied upon the section 12 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000) ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') and is refusing your request for the following reasons.

It should first be noted that multiple requests within a single item of correspondence are considered separate requests for the purposes of section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000, as confirmed in *Fitzsimmons v Information Commissioner* [2008] UKIT EA/2007/0124.

When a public authority is estimating whether the appropriate limit is likely to be exceeded for the purposes of regulation 5 of the Fees Regulations as prescribed by section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000, it can include the costs of complying with two or more requests if these are:

- made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign; and
- received by the public authority within any period of 60 working days.

Since all of these requests were sent by the same individual and received on 19 July 2024, the UHB believes these conditions to be satisfied.

Regulation 5(2) of the Fees Regulations equally requires that aggregated requests relate 'to any extent' to the same or similar information. This test is likely to be met where requests possess an overarching theme or have a common thread running between them with respect to the nature of the information sought. And since each of the requests relates to the procurement and provision of vascular access devices, the UHB considers the requirement of similar information sought to be met due to the common themes present.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to the aggregated requests would exceed the time limit as set within the Fees Regulations to respond to a request made under the FOIA 2000. 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 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.

In light of the above considerations, the UHB is refusing your requests for information in accordance with section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000.

In accordance with the UHB's duty to provide advice and assistance under section 16 of the FOIA 2000, should information on a *specific clinical speciality* be requested, the UHB may be able to provide procurement and provision detail.