

Ref no: 166200717  
From: Commercial  
Date: 20/07/17  
Subject: Hospital privacy curtains

## REQUEST

I am writing to you behalf of All in One Medical to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the use of hospital privacy curtains at **St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust** and associated hospitals.

**Please answer the below questions separately for each hospital that falls under the remit of St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust, and provide the information in the form of an electronic copy.**

1. What is the policy regarding the changing of a hospital privacy curtain in each NHS Hospital? How often are they changed on average per year? Is there any variation based on high or low risk areas/departments? *For example: "Curtains are changed every 3, 4 or 6 months, or if visibly soiled or after a terminal clean, A&E curtains are changed more frequently at every two months. "*
2. Is the policy referenced in **Q1** applied to all curtain types; Linen, disposable, disposable antimicrobial. Please specify any variation of policy based on curtain type.
3. What type (Linen, disposable, disposable antimicrobial) of privacy curtain is used, who is the producer/manufacturer? If multiple curtain products are present please list these.
4. Does an external company provide curtain services to the trust (supply of curtains, curtains changing, fitting, laundering)? If so, please state the company name, services provided, and curtain contract end/review date.
5. What is the annual cost to each hospital for linen and laundry services for the privacy curtains? If disposable curtains are used, what is total annual spend for these, for approximately how many curtains?

6. How many privacy curtains are in use in each hospital within the trust?  
Please state compared to the number of beds for each hospital.
7. What proportion of curtain spend per year is through the NHS supply chain? Please state values in GBP.

## RESPONSE

1. The policy regarding curtain changes within the Trust requires curtains to be changed following deep cleans, barrier cleans or if curtains are visibly soiled. Routine changes are done on a six monthly programme in low risk areas. On average curtains are changed every three months in higher risk areas as there is a higher volume of patients passing through.
2. Yes the policy referenced in Q1 is applied to all curtain types.
3. Privacy curtains used within the Trust are 100% polyester fabric and manufactured by MJ Fabrics.  
Presently there are not any multi curtain products used within the Trust.
4. All curtain services are managed within the Soft FM services contract. The present contract is for review in June 2018
5. The annual cost for privacy curtains is included within the overall linen and laundry payment to Medirest.
6. The Trust has in use approximately 4,000 privacy curtains which encompass the number of beds within the Trust as circa 646 beds available as per figures PLACE 2017
7. The Trust does not buy curtains through NHS supply chain.