

Ref no: 056011018
From: Commercial
Date: 01/10/18
Subject: Temporary walking /mobility aids

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Using the Freedom of Information Act, may I please request the following information.

From January 1 2014 until the date of this request, how many temporary walking /mobility aids available for patients have been deemed irrecoverable / missing?

The Trust does not routinely issue walking aids, however, aids issued are not recorded centrally. Walking aids are requested from local authority equipment services and patients requiring wheelchairs are referred to specialist providers.

Please list the number of temporary walking / mobility aids by type (ie 45 x crutches, 3 x wheel chairs) and by year.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in answering the remainder of your questions. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

Please also state, where known, the amount spent on walking / mobility aids such as these each year.

Figures are only available from 2015:

STHK spend on walking aids Jan 15 to Mar 18			
	walking sticks	zimmer frames	crutches
April 15 - March 16	842.24	219.39	4652.65
April 16- March 17	623.73	1199.49	1148.78
April 17 - March 18	1975.96	1081.53	972.51

The aim of this request is to identify how many pairs of crutches, etc, have not been returned by patients in recent years and the cost burden on the NHS. The word 'irrecoverable' is therefore used to weed out genuine cases where crutches are still being used by patients.

If the time frame of this request is likely to exceed the limits of the FOI act, please reduce it working backwards from the date this is received.

If this request still falls outside the limitations, please simply reply with snapshot figures of how many temporary walking / mobility aids for patients are currently deemed 'irrecoverable' or 'missing'.