

Ref no: 177120418
From: Commercial
Date: 12/04/18
Subject: Cleaning and recycling hospital equipment used by patients

REQUEST & RESPONSE

1.a I wish to know what the trust's policy is on cleaning and recycling hospital equipment used by patients, such as wheelchairs and walking sticks?

The Trust does not supply wheelchairs – patients are referred to specialist wheelchair providers and these providers will have their own policies on recycling.

The Trust does not supply walking aids or equipment to aid daily activity; these are supplied by local equipment services which have their own delivery and collection processes.

The Trust provides walking sticks but does not recycle these as they are supplied for long term use.

1.b What items, under this policy, which could be cleaned and reused, do you bin after one use?

Crutches are recycled; they are cleaned checked over for any defects and ferrules are replaced as per Therapy Department SOP. Any damaged crutches that are returned are disposed of in the interest of patient safety.

For the below questions - if there is a way for you to divide the information by equipment type, and quantity, please do.

2.a What would be the estimated cost of cleaning these items over the financial year?

Approximately £3000 to clean and recycle crutches in therapy services.

2.b For the last three financial years (2015-16, 16-17, 17-18) divided by year, what has been the cost of binning these items?

This information is not recorded.

2.c For the last three financial years (2015-16, 16-17, 17-18) divided by year, much has it cost to replace these items?

See attached spread sheet.

2.d For the last three financial years (2015-16, 16-17, 17-18) divided by year, how many items that could be reused have patients not returned?

This information is not recorded.

3.a How much did the trust spend on rubbish collection for hospital waste?

This information is available on the Estates Return Information Collection database following the link <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/estates-returns-information-collection/estates-return-information-collection-2016-17>

I wish to be informed in writing whether you have such information and, if so, I seek the disclosure of that information. If the information is covered by any exemptions, please disclose such information as is not covered by the exemptions.