

FOI 3132

18th June 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. **In the last quarter, what percentage of the following flexible endoscopes:**
 - **Gastrosopes**
 - **Colonoscopes**
 - **Duodenoscopes**

Were returned to the manual cleaning process because they were not used within 3 hours after removal from the endoscope washer disinfectant (EWD) or automatic endoscope reprocessor, as per BSG and ESGE guidelines.

Response:

Taking into account, Sterile Service Department had no Storage System from 4th April – 6th May until we reverted to using an alternative storage system on the 6th of May, the following is the number of scopes that were reprocessed and not used in accordance with the 3-hour rule. When the storage system is in use these numbers would all be in single figures routinely.

- Gastrosopes - 152 scopes
- Colonoscopes - 81 scopes
- Duodenoscopes - 42 scopes

The usual process consists of a manual wash, followed by reprocess in EWD (Endoscopy Washer Disinfectant), followed by storage system up to 30 days. However, during the timeframe whereby the storage system in SSD was broken (4th April – 6th May), SSD was reprocessing endoscopes within the 3-hour rule. This accounts for the Trusts large number of scopes being returned for manual cleaning, but it is important to note this did not cause any subsequent delay or impact to service delivery.

2. **In the last year, how many flexible endoscopes required emergency out of hours cleaning?**

Response:

None, decontamination area is manned by sterile services team with 24hour cover.

3. **Are endoscopes reprocessed within the hospital or outsourced to a separate decontamination facility?**

1. **a. If reprocessing is outsourced, which facility is used?**

1. b. How often and at which times of the day, are endoscopes collected and returned to the unit from the external reprocessing unit?

1. c. How are endoscopes transported between the hospital and external reprocessing unit?

Response:

Within hospital

4 Are there on call decontamination staff?

Response:

Not required.

5 How is the time elapsed between completing pre-cleaning and starting the manual clean/AER quantified and recorded?

Response:

This is recorded and captured on scope track for pre and manual cleaning. The AER's also record time scope is inserted and removed from start to end of cycle

6 Do you have a delayed reprocessing protocol in place?

Response:

Yes

1. a. If so, is adherence to this protocol monitored and what system is used to monitor this?

Response:

All staff are trained in the protocol, refresher training is offered throughout the year. unit managers/supervisors ensure protocols are adhered to through visible checks.

7 What is the current endoscope transport system used and who is the supplier?

Response:

No transport routinely required unless a particular scope is needed urgently from another site, if this is required a taxi (approved by Trust) is used to transport the scope.

8 How much is spent per year on endoscope transportation systems?

Response:

None

9 What is the current endoscope track and trace system used?

Response:

Scope track

10 How much is spent per year on endoscope track and trace systems?

Response:

Annual service and support contract £10,898 covers all systems 3 sites

11 Would the endoscopy unit be happy to be contacted regarding trialling new endoscope infection prevention consumable products? If yes, please provide a contact name and details.

Response:

New products must be available off a framework or catalogue, before they can be considered.

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