

FOI – 1591

10th May 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1. How many patients of the Southern Health & Social Care Trust are using or have been prescribed the following medical devices for use in their home?

- A. Nebuliser
- B. Oxygen Concentrator
- C. Suction
- D. Ventilator or non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP or CPAP)
- E. Feeding Pump
- F. Powered hospital bed
- G. Electric wheelchair
- H. Haemodialysis machine
- I. Body drier
- J. Chair lift

The medical equipment asset database does not record details of equipment in the community nor any patient information thus we are unable to provide the information requested.

As the information you have requested is not recorded centrally retrieving it would involve a manual search of individual patient records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive. In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

Question 2. What, if any, rebate or refund schemes are made available by Southern Health & Social Care Trust for patients in respect of the energy costs they incur running the above devices?

There is no specific financial assistance available from the Department of Health.

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