

Email: foi.tsdf@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10845

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information concerning interventional cardiology procedures performed by the Trust and the coronary stents and balloon catheters purchased by it.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for each of the following financial periods:

- 2023/24
- 2024/25
- 2025/26

Please provide information relating to the following interventional cardiology device categories:

1. Drug-Eluting Coronary Stents (DES)
2. Drug-Coated Balloons (DCB)
3. Semi-Compliant Coronary Angioplasty Balloons

A. PROCEDURE / DEVICE VOLUMES

For each financial year or period, please provide:

1. The total number of PCI procedures performed by the Trust.
2. The total number of coronary stents used or purchased.
3. The total number of coronary balloon catheters used or purchased.

B. DEVICE PRICING AND EXPENDITURE

For each manufacturer and product identified above, please provide:

1. Manufacturer name.
2. Product/brand name.
3. Number of units purchased.
4. Actual unit price paid by the Trust, excluding VAT.
5. Total expenditure, excluding VAT.
6. Supplier or distributor name, where recorded.

If the Trust is unable to disclose the exact unit price, I would be grateful if you could instead provide:

- **the total number of units purchased; and**
 - **the total expenditure on that product, excluding VAT,**
- so that an average unit cost can be calculated.**

The Trust is refusing this request in full under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because the estimated cost of determining, locating, retrieving and extracting the information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time for an NHS body.

The relevant information is not held in a single report or in a form that corresponds with the categories specified in the request. Clinical records use abbreviated descriptions and do not consistently distinguish drug-coated balloons from semi-compliant coronary angioplasty balloons or other balloon types. The purchasing ledger was searched using the relevant budget codes. Transactions described as “stent” or “balloon” can be identified, but these descriptions do not consistently confirm the device category, manufacturer or product. Transactions issued through Stores also do not contain a supplier identifier.

In addition, many invoices are recorded only as “GOODS”. For Medtronic Ltd and Terumo UK alone, 1,515 invoices were identified with this description from 2023/24 to the current financial year. Each invoice would need to be retrieved, opened and reviewed individually to establish whether it relates to one of the device categories in the request and, where applicable, to identify the manufacturer, product, number of units, price and supplier. At an estimated three minutes per invoice, this work would take approximately 75 hours and 45 minutes. This exceeds the 18-hour appropriate limit. The Trust is therefore not obliged to comply with the request under section 12(1).

In accordance with section 16 of the Act, the Trust has considered what information may be available if the request is refined. The Trust may be able to provide annual totals for PCI procedures as a standalone request. It may also be able to provide counts based on the exact descriptions recorded in the clinical system, such as “DrgElStn” and “Balloon”. However, entries recorded as “Balloon” cannot be reliably separated into drug-coated, semi-compliant or other balloon types.

For purchasing information, the Trust may be able to provide transactions explicitly described in the ledger as “stent” or “balloon”. Any such information would exclude invoices described only as “GOODS”, and Stores transactions would not identify the supplier. Any revised request would be considered separately.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team