

Email: foi.tsdfd@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10894

15 October 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

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

A copy of the information is below:

The purpose of this request is to gather data on the scale of bed bug infestations across NHS hospitals and the associated cost of treating and managing these infestations.

I am seeking anonymised data on the following from 1 January 2020 to 2 October 2026:

- 1.) The number of confirmed or suspected bed bug infestations or incidents recorded by the Trust for each year within the specified period.
Please provide the data broken down by year.**

2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	0
2024	0
2025	0
2026	0

- 2.) The total expenditure incurred by the Trust, where recorded and readily available, in relation to the treatment, control or removal of bed bug infestations or incidents for each year within the specified period.
Please provide the data broken down by year.

	Pest control and eradication	Cleaning or decontamination	Treatment of affected areas	Removal or disposal of mattresses	Removal or disposal of other affected items
2020	0	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0	0
2025	0	0	0	0	0
2026	0	0	0	0	0

This should include, where recorded and readily available, expenditure relating to:

- pest control and eradication;
- cleaning or decontamination;
- treatment of affected areas;
- removal or disposal of mattresses; and
- removal or disposal of other affected items.

Please include expenditure incurred through both in-house provision and external or contracted services, where this information is held.

If the Trust does not record bed bug incidents or associated expenditure separately from other pest control activity, please provide the total number of pest control incidents and associated expenditure for each year within the specified period instead.

Guidance published by one NHS Trust, in its "Management of Bedbugs in Inpatient Wards" flowchart, indicates that mattresses may be bagged and discarded as clinical waste following a bedbug infestation. As practices and record-keeping may vary between Trusts, I would therefore be grateful for the following information where recorded and readily available:

- 3.) Where recorded and readily available, the number of mattresses removed or disposed of as a result of confirmed or suspected bed bug infestations for each year within the specified period. Please provide the data broken down by year.

2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	0
2024	0
2025	0
2026	0

If the Trust does not record mattresses removed or disposed of specifically in relation to bed bugs, please provide the corresponding figures for mattresses removed or disposed of as a result of pest infestations generally, where available.

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 Information Governance Team at Information Governance and Data Protection, Belmont Court, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Torquay, TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.igteam@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