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Ymddiriedolaeth GIG
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NHS Trust



Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru
Welsh Blood Service

Pencadlys Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Prifysgol Felindre
Velindre University NHS Trust Headquarters
2 Cwrt Charnwood
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Caerdydd/Cardiff
CF15 7QZ



Canolfan Ganser Felindre
Velindre Cancer Centre

Ffôn/Phone : (029) 20196161

<https://velindre.nhs.wales>

Date: 1st August 2023

Ref: CORP 2023 - 107

Dear *****,

Freedom of Information request: Products containing Chitin/Chitosan (CORP 2023-107)

Thank you for your request for the following information which the Trust received on 4th July 2023.

Your Request:

Q1a) Is any of the product(s) purchased/used in your hospital contain Chitin/Chitosan (e.g. surgical sutures, materials in wound healing/tissue engineering/dentistry/drug delivery)?

Yes

No

If the answer to Q1a is Yes then skip to Q2a.

If the answer to Q1a is No then:

Q1b) Do you plan on utilizing products containing Chitin/Chitosan in the next two years?

Yes

No

If the answer to Q1b is No, you may skip the rest of the questionnaire.

If the answer to Q1b is Yes, answer Q2a and then you may skip the rest of the questionnaire.

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Q2a) *What product(s) do you have in the hospital (or intend to purchase) that FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk contains Chitin/Chitosan?*

Q2b) *For each product listed in response to Question Q2a, could you please provide the following details:*

- *The product's brand name.*
- *The purpose of the product and in which department it is used.*
- *The approximate volume of the product used/purchased over the last financial year (1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023).*

Q3) *Has the hospital received any complaints or filed any cases of side effects from using the Chitin/Chitosan product(s) mentioned above? If so, please provide detail of the following:*

- Number of cases in years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023*
- description of the most three common side effects*
- Which product(s) caused the most commonly seen side effects*

Q4) *Is there any limitation(s), certification(s), or regulatory requirement(s) that are bounded when utilizing Chitin/Chitosan in the hospital (i.e. ISO standards or Ethics, etc)? If so, please specify.*

Q5) *Is the hospital currently or will be promoting any new products containing chitin or chitosan?*

The Trust has reviewed your request which is correctly formatted and complies with Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Our response is as follows:

The Trust does not record the data requested in a format that enables the information to be easily retrieved to the level of detail required to specifically answer your request. For clarification, the Trust is of the opinion that each of the separate drug lines that are held would have to be manually checked and given the high volume of drug lines held this is not viable. The Trust does not have a central database which lists all of the excipients in a drug.

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Therefore, the Trust estimates that to carry out this task. the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours of work at a rate of £25 per hour or £450.

As result, the Trust is applying a Qualified Exemption under Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit) In particular the legislation states:

12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

However, the Trust has a duty to advise and assist you under Section 16 of the Act, therefore may I suggest that you consider the option to revise your request so that it falls below the prescribed appropriate limit.

To provide you with the necessary guidance, Page 23, paragraph 6.9 of [Section 45 \(Code of Practice\) on Request Handling under FOI](#) states:

6.9 Where a request is refused under section 12, public authorities should consider what advice and assistance can be provided to help the applicant reframe or refocus their request with a view to bringing it within the cost limit. This may include suggesting that the subject or timespan of the request is narrowed. Any refined request should be treated as a new request for the purposes of the Act.

In reaching this decision we estimate that it would take a minimum of 20 hours or £550 an amount of £100 over the core amount of £450 extra to obtain the data. The amount would require payment in full prior to the Trust undertaking the work.

However, under Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), the Trust suggests that you revise your request so that it falls below the prescribed

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appropriate limit. In order to provide more information, Page 23, paragraph 6.9 of [Section 45 \(Code of Practice\) on Request Handling under FOI](#) states:

6.9 Where a request is refused under section 12, public authorities should consider what advice and assistance can be provided to help the applicant reframe or refocus their request with a view to bringing it within the cost limit. This may include suggesting that the subject or timespan of the request is narrowed. Any refined request should be treated as a new request for the purposes of the Act.

I trust this answers your request for information, however, should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review. Please note that you must submit a request for a review within 40 days of the date of this letter.

You should forward your complaint to:-

Mr Ian Bevan via FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk
Head of Information Governance
Velindre University NHS Trust
2, Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff / Caerdydd
CF15 7QZ
Tel / Ffon - 029 20196161

Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:-

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff,
CF10 2HH
Telephone: 0330 414 6421

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email: wales@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Fear
Director of Corporate Governance and Chief of Staff
Velindre University NHS Trust
2 Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
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CF15 7QZ

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