

31 July 2020

Our Ref: RFI 35157

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Food Waste Generated by the Trust Per Site**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 20 July 2020.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources & Corporate Affairs Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. Do you prepare all catering for patients and visitors in-house or outsourced or buy in precooked meals per site, please state sites details for the all requested information below.

A1. Please see Attachment 1 which shows a detailed breakdown per facility.

Q2. If catering is outsourced please provider contractor's details.

A2. N/A

Q3. Please explain in detail the process involved in disposal of food waste and cost associated with this for the following scenario i.e.

Q3.1 If food waste macerated please provide detailed breakdown of cost analysis including running costs of macerated machines, annual service contract; electricity and water tariff charges. Do you have ppm for the unblocking of foul drainage contract and how many times foul drainage were blocked over last 3 years due to food waste stemming from main trust kitchen.

A3.1 N/A

Q3.2 If food waste is treated off-site by contractor please state what happens to food waste and please provide detailed breakdown of all charges associated with this service including cost of bags, porter cost to transfer the food waste to a secured area, frequency of collection of food waste, carbon emissions and length of contract.

A3.2 The food waste is collected by a licensed contractor (River Ridge Recycling) and then taken either to Natural World Products for in-vessel composting or to Granville Ecopark for anaerobic digestion. The length of the contract is 3 years.

The disposal service is charged on a 'price per bin' basis (£5 per 120l bin and £9 per 240l bin) and includes provision of wheeled bins and liners, collection, transport and treatment of waste and a bin cleaning service. The annual cost of bags is £21270.70.

The Trust do not use porters to transfer waste to a secure area, the waste is brought to the bins in designated areas by catering staff and collected directly from those areas by the contractor.

Waste collection is done twice weekly at two main hospital sites and weekly at all other Trust facilities which produce food.

In reference to carbon emissions, the Trust does not hold this data so we are unable to respond to this question.

Q3.3 Has your organisation ever been cautioned by public body/EA for causing pollution from food waste.

A3.3 No, the Trust has never been cautioned by a public body/EA for pollution from food waste.

Q3.4 State process involved in recording food waste data as part of annual ERIC disclosure and please state on average how much food is wasted per kg/day.

A3.4 The weights collected are provided by the contractor and internal databases of costs and weights are maintained. However we do not submit ERIC returns and there is currently no requirement to report these figures to the Department of Health or any other regulatory body.
In the last financial year (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020), 226 tonnes of food waste was produced across the Trust over the year which equates to 619 kg per day. A full breakdown for each facility is provided on Attachment 1. Please note – these figures are provided by the contractor and are not independently verified.

Q3.5 Does your organisation track the food ordered for each patient as patients are transferred to another ward during their stay in the Hospital for the treatment or recovery.

A3.5 No, the Trust does not track food ordered for each patient.

Q4. Please provide name and email details of Trust Chief Executive, Board Directors responsible for the estates and finance.

A4. Chief Executive – Seamus McGoran
Email: seamus.mcgoran@setrust.hscni.net

Director of Finance & Estates – Paul Morgan
Email: paul.morgan@setrust.hscni.net
Secretary to Paul Morgan – Colette Hughes
Email: colette.hughes@setrust.hscni.net

Paul Morgan will be replaced by Wendy Thompson on 1st September 2020 who does not currently have an email address so please also use Paul's secretary as a temporary contact.

Q5. Does your organisation have Sustainability management Plan and Carbon neutral plan by 2030/2050, please forward both documents.

A5. Please see Attachment - 2 Environmental Policy and Attachment - 3 Carbon Management Policy. This is the extant Carbon Policy due to staff turnover and the renewal of the policy will be for the new Manager when recruited.