

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 12th June 2019
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 19-E-013

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Corporate Administration
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 17th May 2019. Your request sought information relating to intravenous anaesthetic agents

1.Total (annual) volume purchased for EACH agent (incl. sevoflurane, desflurane, isoflurane, nitrous oxide, and propofol) PER YEAR for 2006-2018 (in millilitres or litres).

Please note that we only hold this data centrally from May 2016 onwards:

Drug	2016 (23rd May onwards)	2017	2018
Desflurane Anaesthetic Inhalation	115680 ml	181680 ml	146400 ml
Isoflurane Anaesthetic Inhalation	19000 ml	35250 ml	28250 ml
Sevoflurane Anaesthetic Inhalation	576250 ml	867500 ml	854000 ml
Propofol 1g in 100ml	12047 vials	20920 vials	20238 vials
Propofol 200mg in 20ml	21015 vial	32760 vials	31230 vials



Propofol 500mg in 50ml	5349 vials	8599 vials	8220 vials
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We are unable to provide details for nitrous oxide. To obtain this information would involve a manual trawl and search of records which we have estimated would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI Act as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

2.Total (annual) volume used/issued for EACH agent PER YEAR for 2006-2018 (in millilitres or litres).

The Health Board does not record the amount used only the volume purchased as in Q1.

3.If not violating commercial sensitivity, please also include the total (annual) amount spent on EACH agent PER YEAR for 2006-2018 (in pounds sterling) and the name of the manufacturers/suppliers. Also, please state whether the total amount spent includes or excludes VAT.

Please find below the total spend per year on the total list and volume of drugs:

2016 - £280,451.01
 2017 - £357,586.67
 2018 - £344,409.40

We are unable to supply this information by agent as in conjunction with the information provided in question 1 this would enable you to calculate the cost per unit. Therefore this information is withheld under Section 43. Section 43 of the Act sets out an exemption for the right to know if release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (a person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). Section 43 is a qualified exemption. That is, it is subject to the public interest test. The information if released in conjunction with the information provided in question 1 would enable you to calculate the cost per unit.

The Health Board accepts that there is a public interest in ensuring openness and transparency and there is an interest in the public being aware of how much money is spent and the benefits derived from that expenditure. However, the Health Board believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Boards ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it is not in the publics' interest to disclose this information.

We can however provide the names of the suppliers which are as follows:

Desflurane	Baxter
Isoflurane	Teva Ltd
Sevoflurane	Teva Ltd
Propofol 1g in 100ml	Fresenius Kabi
Propofol 200mg in 20ml	Fresenius Kabi



Propofol 500mg in 50ml
Nitrous Oxide

B Braun
BOC

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger
Director of Corporate Governance

