

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request concerning how many crutches, walking frames and walking sticks were purchased by your trust.

The Trust can provide the following information:

- 1) How many crutches, walking frames and walking sticks were purchased by your trust in 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010 (please can you break this down by equipment type e.g. "27,000 walking frames")
- 2) What was the total spend in the above years on a) crutches b) walking frames c) walking sticks.

Note: in regards to the other years being requested this information is not recorded in the format requested and to produce the requested information would require extracting from different sources and would exceed 18 hours therefore is exempt under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For Financial year 2013/2014 please find the information you requested below.

Crutches: 2563 pairs	Spend: £30,721.08
Walking Sticks: 713	Spend: £2,664.05
Walking Frames: 872	Spend: £20,294.89

- 3) Do you know how many have been given to patients and have not been returned? If so, please can you provide the figure for each of the above years.
No
- 4) Are there ever health and safety reasons which prevent crutches, walking frames and walking sticks being re-used if they are in good working condition?
We are aware that some organisations see these items as single use only due to manufacturer's use of caveats. At Homerton equipment is reissued, once checked and cleaned.
- 5) If the answer to the above is 'yes' what happens to this equipment?
- 6) Do you know the estimated cost to the NHS of lost/stolen crutches, walking frames, walking sticks in the above years? A very small number of patients request new walking equipment, eg a walking stick to replace one left on the bus or a replacement for a stick that has been accidentally damaged. This will be a very small percentage of the overall equipment costs.

Incorporating hospital and community health services, teaching and research

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk , in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

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Information Governance Administrator

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