



Trust Headquarters
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19th March 2026
Internal Reference: 260233
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **24/02/2026**.
We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Please ensure you quote the Internal Reference number above in any future correspondence.

Your Request

For the past three full years for which full data is available, could you please provide procurement data including cost and number of units for the following items purchased by the Trust:

1. Scissors, including surgical, disposable and single-use versions.
2. Forceps, including artery or tissue forceps.
3. Surgical clamps.
4. Basic hollowware, including gallipots, kidney dishes, instrument trays and bowls.
5. Single-use tourniquets.
6. Harmonic shears.

For each item category, please provide for each year:

- a) Total number of units procured
- b) Total spend (£)
- c) Where recorded in procurement systems, whether the items were designated as



single-use/disposable.

Additionally, for the same three years, please provide the total number of the following mobility aids procured by the Trust:

- a) Crutches
- b) Walking frames
- c) Walking sticks

And for each of the above mobility aids:

- a) Total annual spend (£)
- b) If recorded centrally, the number of units refurbished or reissued through reuse schemes

Formal Response

1. Sterile Single Use Scissors – 13cm - NHS Supply Chain FFQ3595

2022 – 2023 21 cases of 180
2023 – 2024 13 cases of 180
2024 – 2025 16 cases of 180

2. Child Magills Forceps - NHS Supply Chain – FIC8817

2022 – 2023 11 cases of 20
2023 – 2024 19 cases of 20
2024 – 2025 26 cases of 20

Adult Magills Forceps - NHS Supply Chain - FCB85181

2022 – 2023 Nil purchased
2023 – 2024 28 cases of 25
2024 – 2025 15 cases of 25

IWS Forceps Blue – Disposable – NHS Supply Chain - FCB20035

2022 – 2023 1 cases of 400
2023 – 2024 3 cases of 400
2024 – 2025 Nil purchased

Spencer Wells Forceps – NHS Supply Chain - FIC27326

2022 – 2023 6 cases of 20
2023 – 2024 12 cases of 20
2024 – 2025 6 cases of 20

Standard Bronze Suture Pack – NHS Supply Chain – EVX171



2022 – 2023 5 cases of 50
2023 – 2024 9 cases of 50
2024 – 2025 9 cases of 50

3. The Trust does not procure surgical clamps separately; forceps fulfil this function. The request is therefore not applicable
4. Not applicable to the Trust.
5. Tourniquet (Single Use) – NHS Supply Chain – FWJ103
2022 – 2023 Nil Purchase
2023 – 2024 Nil Purchase
2024 – 2025 57 Cases of 100
6. Not used by the Trust

For each item category, please provide for each year:
a) Total number of units procured – Please see above.

b) Total spend (£) -

The Trust is withholding the total spend for each individual product under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust and its suppliers.

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is a qualified exemption and the Trust has therefore considered the public interest test.

The Trust recognises that there is a strong public interest in transparency and accountability regarding the expenditure of public funds, particularly within the NHS, and in enabling public scrutiny of procurement practices for clinical supplies. Disclosure can promote confidence in the Trust's stewardship of resources and inform debate about value for money and sustainability in healthcare procurement.

However, the Trust also considers that there is a substantial public interest in protecting commercially sensitive information relating to procurement conducted through NHS Supply Chain frameworks. The requested information relates to detailed expenditure for specific medical products supplied under live contractual arrangements within a competitive market. Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the Trust and its suppliers by revealing commercially sensitive pricing structures, weakening suppliers' competitive positions, and reducing the Trust's ability to negotiate effectively and secure best value in future procurements.



The Trust considers that maintaining effective competition within NHS Supply Chain frameworks, protecting the integrity of contractual relationships, and ensuring the Trust is able to obtain essential clinical supplies at the most economically advantageous terms is itself a significant public interest. Any prejudice to the Trust's commercial position would ultimately risk increased costs to the public purse.

On balance, while acknowledging the public interest in transparency, the Trust considers that this is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining commercial confidentiality in this instance. The Trust has therefore concluded that the public interest favours maintaining the exemption.

c) Where recorded in procurement systems, whether the items were designated as single-use/disposable.- Please see above.

7. Total number of the following mobility aids procured:
 - a. Crutches – Not applicable to the Trust
 - b. Walking frames – Not applicable to the Trust
 - c. Walking sticks – Not applicable to the Trust

And for each of the above mobility aids:

There is no total spend or central record of the mobility aids mentioned as the Trust does not procure crutches, walking frames or walking sticks. There are no units that are refurbished or reissued through reuse schemes.

Next steps

Some information held by the Trust is routinely published on our [website](#) and may be of assistance.

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Requests for an internal review should be submitted within **40 working days** of the date of this response and should be sent to:

Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance at FOI@secamb.nhs.uk



The internal review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in handling your original request, ordinarily the Trust's Data Protection Officer. We aim to complete internal reviews within **20 working days** of receipt.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of the internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO generally expects complaints to be raised promptly following the completion of an internal review.

The easiest way to raise a complaint is via the ICO's website:

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Alternatively, you may write to:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Corporate Governance Team

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon