

Ref. No: 0251  
Date: 13/09/23  
Subject: Pest Control

## REQUEST

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding pest control measures at your NHS Trust's hospital sites over the last five years.

Specifically, I would like to obtain the following data:

1. The total number of times exterminators or pest control services were called at each hospital between 2018 and 2023 to date.
2. A detailed breakdown of the reasons or specific pest issues that led to the calls for exterminators during this period and the actions exterminators and pest control took to remedy this.
3. The total cost incurred, broken down by hospital, for pest control services, including the costs of removing pests, shooting pigeons, and other related expenses in the timeframe.

I understand that this information is of public interest and is related to the health and safety of patients and staff.

## RESPONSE

Please be aware that St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, and therefore the response to your request may reference the individual sites.

1. **The total number of times exterminators or pest control services were called at each hospital between 2018 and 2023 to date.**
  - St Helens Hospital: 138
  - Whiston Hospital: 397
  - Southport and Ormskirk Sites: 96 (January 2021 – Present, data unavailable for previous years)

**2. A detailed breakdown of the reasons or specific pest issues that led to the calls for exterminators during this period and the actions exterminators and pest control took to remedy this.**

The following are the specific reasons for callouts:

- bees
- flying pests
- rodents
- insects
- pigeons

The subcontractor has used methods such as, poison (external), identifying cause (i.e. source of food removed). The service also includes planned preventative visits / monitoring, and fumigation.

**3. The total cost incurred, broken down by hospital, for pest control services, including the costs of removing pests, shooting pigeons, and other related expenses in the timeframe.**

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

At St Helens and Whiston Hospital sites the Facilities Management Services are provided under the Trusts Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract with NewHospitals which also provides the hospital buildings and infrastructure.

All management of the pest control service on these sites are part of the PFI agreements. At St Helens and Whiston Hospital sites all expenditure for these services is provided as part of the PFI agreement and as such are not discreetly identifiable.

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

The costs for these visits are included within our pest control maintenance contract for Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust total of £33,524.62