

Equinox House  
City Link  
Nottingham  
Nottinghamshire  
NG2 4LA

Email: [FOI@supplychain.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@supplychain.nhs.uk)  
[www.supplychain.nhs.uk](http://www.supplychain.nhs.uk)

27 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: SCCL-FOI-2023/24-079**

Thank you for your FOI request received by the FOI office for the following information:

1. To the most recent date available, how much Covid PPE (number of items and estimated cost) remains in storage in the UK?
2. To the most recent date available, what is the total cost to the public purse of storing all of the unused Covid PPE?
3. How much of the currently stored Covid PPE (Q1) is still suitable to be provided for use in the NHS and within expiry?
4. To the most recent date available, how much Covid PPE (number of items and estimated cost) has been safely disposed of?
5. Where is the unused Covid PPE being stored? If exact location is not possible due to commercial interests, a breakdown of the approximate number of items by region or county?
6. To the most recent date available, how much has been paid to the company Uniserve to store Covid PPE?

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and SCCL are able to provide a response:

1. As at end of March 2023, there were 8.8 billion items of PPE stored in warehouses, containers and supplier storage in the UK.
2. The cost of storage for January 2023 to March 2023 was £56 million.
3. Out of 5.5 billion items (March 2023) of excess stock, 796 million is not fit for any purpose. Only 3% of all stock ordered was not fit for any use.
4. A programme of work has been undertaken to reduce our excess stock, including sale, repurposing, donations, recycling and disposal via energy from waste processes. We continue to use recycling and Energy from Waste (EfW) to maximise our exit rate.
5. We would not typically name the sites PPE is stored at because they are places of business and do not need additional security risks.
6. As of 31 March 2023, 331.5k pallets have been disposed of via Lead Waste Providers. Based upon current storage costs it would have cost £42.9m to store this volume of stock each year.

We hope that this response addresses your request. However, if you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the postal or e-mail addresses above, quoting the

reference number above. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the handling of your information request will be reassessed by a member of SCCL staff who was not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the FOI team.

Yours sincerely

FOI Team

**Supply Chain Coordination Limited**  
**Management Function of NHS Supply Chain**