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16 December 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: SCCL-FOI-2024/25-133

Thank you for your FOI request received by the FOI office for the following information. 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 in blue below:

1. Which NHS Supply Chain Frameworks are relevant to the procurement of Soft Surface Items, e.g.,
Pillows – Adult & Paediatric
Mattress – Static Foam
Mattress – Stretcher/Trolley
Duvets – wipeable
Wheelchair Cushions
Patient Positioners – For head and body positioning
Maternity Nursing Pillows & Positioners
Neonatal Positioners & Mattress Pads
[Please see attached spreadsheet FOI 133 data.](#)
2. The end dates for the present frameworks and anticipated expression of interest release dates to commence a new tender process.
[Please see attached spreadsheet FOI 133 data.](#)
[All dates are available on the NHS Supply Chain website. Key stages of tender processes such as expressions of interest and invitations to tender will be published online.](#)
3. The total Value for each framework. Broken-down by individual item and supplier. For the last 3 years (2022/23/24). Please include the NPC code, Description of the product, Unit of issue, quantities, eaches, brand name and supplier name. Ideally in an excel spreadsheet.
[Please see attached spreadsheet FOI 133 data.](#)
[SCCL are unable to provide the information broken down by individual item and supplier, as it is exempt from disclosure under section 43\(2\) \(Commercial Interests\) of the FOI Act 2000. This provides that information can be withheld where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person \(including the public authority holding it\).](#)
4. The total number of items by quantity procured, for each framework. Broken-down by individual item and supplier. For the last 3 years (2022/23/24). Please include the NPC

code, Description of the product, Unit of issue, quantities, eaches, brand name and supplier name. Ideally in an excel spreadsheet.

Please see attached spreadsheet FOI 133 data.

SCCL are unable to provide the information broken down by individual item and supplier, as it is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the FOI Act 2000. This provides that information can be withheld where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

5. Future estimated usage by individual item.

Under section 12 of the Act, NHS Supply Chain is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

We hold the information which you have requested but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it.

As you can see from the spreadsheet provided there are 1108 unique product codes.

The £450 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 18 hours of work per request. We estimate that providing the data requested would exceed this amount considerably. The cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

6. Details of any complaints raised regarding the quality of the above-mentioned products.

SCCL are unable to provide this information as it is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the FOI Act 2000. This provides that information can be withheld where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

7. Any innovative products that the category managers are considering or would consider.

All potentially innovative products should be directed via the product innovation routes published on the NHS Supply Chain website:

<https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/suppliers/product-innovation/>

SCCL are unable to provide information about products currently under consideration as it is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the FOI Act 2000. This provides that information can be withheld where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

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