Reference:	FOI.20900.26
Subject:	Equipment Drapes and Incise Drapes Usage Data in Theatres
Date of Request:	1 July 2026

Requested:

1. I'm seeking a usage report for equipment drapes and incise drapes consumables used in operating theatres across all hospitals/sites in your trust for the last completed financial year (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026). If readily available, please also include the current financial year to date (from 1 April 2026).

2. For each line item, please provide (in Excel or CSV):
   a. Trust site / hospital
   b. Product code
   c. Description
   d. Manufacturer name and brand (if held)
   e. Supplier (e.g., NHS Supply Chain or direct supplier)
   f. Pack size & unit of measure
   g. Quantity usage
   h. Total spend for each product

Scope / terminology: By equipment drapes and incise drapes I mean single-use sterile drapes used to maintain the sterile field during surgical procedures, such as: equipment drapes/covers (e.g., for microscopes, C-arms/image intensifiers, cameras, Mayo stands, instrument trolleys), incise drapes (plain and iodine-impregnated), split sheets/split drapes, aperture drapes, adhesive drapes, and related single-use sterile drape consumables.

(I am not requesting reusable/fabric drapes, general surgical procedure packs, or capital equipment.)

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) to the quantity requested for question 2g as it relates to third parties and disclosure of this information could be used along with other information to calculate individual pricing, which would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any company.

Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors
- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).
The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favor of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services. Private sector bodies engaging in commercial activities with the public sector must expect some information about those activities to be disclosed.

Against Disclosure: Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and cause substantial harm to the suppliers, as it would disclose their pricing per product, and it would be likely that this would damage their ability to work within a highly competitive sector. The information being requested is likely to be used by their competitors to gain a competitive advantage.

Decision: The UHB has considered that releasing the information under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the suppliers' competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body, and that there is a public interest in ensuring that there is competition for public sector contracts.

Therefore, the public interest in withholding the quantity used is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the company to which this information concerns.

However, the UHB provides the remaining information within the attached excel spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.