

[request-630400-35166f61@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-630400-35166f61@whatdotheyknow.com)

Charcot Road  
Colindale  
NW9 5BG

Our ref: MOC/ 388504

Tel: 01923 366 7643  
[www.nhsbt.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk)

Dear Mr Carter

**Re: Information request**

Thank you for your request dated 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 for information from NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) regarding discarded blood donations.

I am writing to advise you that we are able to provide you with the following information in response to your request.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is a Special Health Authority. Its remit includes the provision of a reliable, efficient supply of blood and associated services to the NHS in England.

If you require information from the Welsh, Scottish or Northern Irish Blood services you will need to contact them direct.

**(1) How many usable donations are discarded?**

**(An overall figure and a proportion of overall usable donations would be helpful. One figure for a single twelve month period would be acceptable.)**

In the 2018/19 financial year 5,909 (0.42%) of usable Red Cell units were expired.

**(2) Is there an acceptable / expected figure for the number / proportion of discarded usable donations? (i.e. recognising that it will be necessary to have an over-supply in order to be able to deal with any emergencies and contingencies.)**

Our target for expiry of usable Red Cells is 1.00% or less.

I hope this is helpful in addressing your questions. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Lawley  
**Head of Corporate Communications**

E-mail: [customer.services@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:customer.services@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Customer Services Operations Manager, NHS Blood and Transplant, Charcot Road, Colindale, NW9 5BG (Email: [customer.services@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:customer.services@nhsbt.nhs.uk)).

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.