

request-543840-fa661d40@whatdotheyknow.com

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Our ref: MOC/ 364239

Dear Ms Martinelli

**Re: Information request**

Thank you for your request dated 12 January 2019 for information regarding the cost of wastage. We can provide you with the following information in response to your request:

**1) What is the cost of wastage per each unit of donated blood?**

- **How much of this cost is associated with burst, clotted, or contaminated bags?**
- **How much of this cost is associated with improper needle use?**
- **How much of this cost is associated with failed or incomplete donations?**
- **How much of this cost is associated with needle accidents?**

The cost of wastage of a unit of blood is between £6.71 and £128.99 depending on when the wastage occurs in the process. Wastage that occurs during collection could be just the cost of a blood pack, which is £6.71. Wastage of a unit of blood that occurs following processing, storage and transport could cost up to £128.99.

Due to this variability, we do not keep data of the costs associated with wastage by burst, clotted or contaminated bags, improper needle use, failed donations or needle accidents.

We endeavour to keep wastage to a minimum. Where possible, any donated blood that cannot be used for transfusion into patients may be used for laboratory work, education, training or research and development.

**2) On average how many needles are used for every unit of donated blood?**

**E.g. is it often that more than one needle is used, or are needles sometimes used and then wasted when no full donation can be taken due to illness etc.?**

We use one needle per unit of donated blood.

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.