

28/06/2022

Dear Requester,

**FOI 1405**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which was received within the Trust.  
Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

This is a request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. I would like to request the following information:

**1. Bedford**

The grounds and gardens are maintained by the grounds keeper who manually removes any weeds if needs to be moved.

**2. L&D**

The grounds and gardens at L&D are maintained by our Contractor Browns Landscape Solutions LTD

- **What is your policy for weed control in the hospital's grounds?**  
Please see below.
- **Do you use herbicides containing glyphosate eg Roundup, Weedol etc? If yes, what do you use?**  
Yes, Roundup 480 and Rosate 360.
- **What areas have been sprayed with herbicides containing glyphosate?**  
Hard standing areas not intended to bare vegetation around the Trust site. Sprayed in a spot application method.
- **What is your policy on the use of glyphosate?**
  1. Herbicides will be used to control excessive weed growth on hard surfaces where the size and density of weed growth may create a hazard to the user, may promote pest/vermin activity or may cause damage to the structure or surface they grow on. They are treated on a reactive basis.
  2. The total, non-residual herbicide will be used to control weeds on hard standing areas. The herbicide will be applied to the weed growth only.
  3. All herbicides shall be approved for use by the relevant governing body and used strictly in accordance with the product label and any manufacturer / governing body advice.
  4. All herbicides will be applied using trained staff or staff under close supervision of another trained staff member.

5. Herbicides should not be used before or during weather conditions that would render their use ineffective or result in the contamination of the surrounding area.
6. Herbicides will not be used outside of the growing season, where applications may be ineffective.
7. No weed spraying shall be carried out within 1m of a water course. The relevant application will be made to the Environment Agency if watercourse treatments are required.

**3. What precautions were taken ahead of its use?**

Our staff are PA1 & PA6 Certified – (PA1) Handling & Application of Pesticides and (PA6) Application using Handheld / Knapsack Sprayer.

**4. For the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, please can you tell me:**

**The volume of these herbicides you have you used and the cost:**

Year	Volume	Cost
2018 - 2021	2.250L	The cost is included within the grounds maintenance service and is not costed separately. It makes up around 1/6 of our labour and material cost for our visits during the growing season.
2022 to June	1.200L	

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Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests *for internal review* should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to: [dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk). This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

*FOI Officer*

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust