

11/10/2022

Dear Requester,

**FOI 1704**

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:

1. **How much does the supplying of disposable face masks by the hospital cost per month? This includes those handed out to visitors and those worn by staff of all kinds, including office staff, porters and nurses.**

We do not pay for our PPE at present. It is still being sent in via a national push model.

1. **Does Luton and Dunstable Hospital still require those attending to wear masks?  If so, what is the average monthly cost?**

The use of surgical masks remains in place for all staff, patients and visitors in clinical areas including outpatients. Masks are not required in non-clinical areas that include corridors, meeting rooms, shared office spaces, staff restaurants etc. In line with Q1 the Trust does not currently pay for PPE.

1. **Does Luton and Dunstable Hospital employ someone to stand at the hospital entrance in order to hand out masks and disinfect visitors' hands? If so what is the monthly cost of their salaries?**

The Trust does not employ anyone to stand at the hospital entrance.

1. **If Luton and Dunstable Hospital is still requiring masks (which they were last time I visited) then please supply the Hospital's risk assessment demonstrating that the use of face masks should remain compulsory at the Hospital. If the risk assessment relies on Peer reviewed papers, please also reveal the name of the reviews and the source.**

It is only mandatory to wear face masks in clinical areas and the Trust follows national guidance relating to PPE (that includes the use of facemasks) through the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

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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