

Procurement, Commissioning & Facilities
NHS National Services Scotland
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Date: 25 November 2022
Our ref: K: FOI/Ref: 2022-000269
Email: nss.pcf-foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2022-000269 Volume of clinical waste shipped and Communications between various companies and NHS NSS

I refer to your freedom of information request that we received on 28 October 2022. I can advise you that we have now completed the search of our records and can provide you with the following information:

- 1. The total volume of clinical/medical waste shipped to England and Europe from Scotland between 2018 up and until today's date.**

Figure 1. Clinical Waste Shipped

Dates	Clinical/medical waste shipped to England/Wales (Tonnes)	Clinical/medical waste shipped to other European countries (excluding Scotland) (Tonnes)
Dec 2018 – Mar 2019	3,904	0
Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	3,388	0
Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	3,754	0
Apr 2021 – Oct 2022	3,616	0



Headquarters

Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent, EDINBURGH EH12 9EB

Chairperson Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

2. The holding location for the above waste between 2018 up to and including 2022.

Waste holding locations as follows:

Cliniwaste – Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottinghamshire and Shotts

Denholm MacNamee – Raigmore Waste Transfer Station, NHS Highland

Perfect Hygiene – Forresterhill East Transfer Station and NHS Grampian

Rentokil – Coatbridge

Tradebe – Wrexham, Swindon, Fawley, Redditch and Bellshill

Veolia – Ellesmere Port, Tyseley

Vetspeed/Novus Environmental - Livingston

Viridor – Dunbar

WH Malcolm Ltd – Linwood, Hurlford (near Kilmarnock) and South St. Glasgow

3. communication details between the companies below with NSS, NHSS and Martin Bell between June 2018 and June 2021 all dates inclusive

J. Mitchell Haulage (Grangemouth) Ltd.

WH Malcolm (Linwood) Ltd.

Northwards Logistics Ltd.

Rentokil /Initial /plc

Cannon Hygiene Ltd.

PHS Washrooms Ltd.

Caledonia Washrooms Ltd.

MS Industrial Services Ltd.

Stericycle Ltd.

Tradebe Environmental Services Ltd.

Veolia Environmental Services Ltd.

Novus Environmental Ltd.

Vetspeed Ltd.

Section 13 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2022 - Fees for disclosure in certain circumstances - could have been applied to your request however Section (15) of the Freedom of Information Act 2022 - Duty to provide advice and assistance applies. On this basis although the request is very large due to the number of companies involved and the timeframe the information will be released in 2 stages. The first being today with the remaining information being released within a further 20 days from today. Due to the volume of the information requested, the detail will be released in the format of appendices as compressed files in 33 separate emails relating to each of the companies. In regards to the appendices some of them contain reference to more than one company and on that basis the appendices will only be released in one email relating to one of the companies referenced for example: email includes reference to J Mitchell Haulage and Rentokil it will appear only in the J Mitchell file release it will not appear in the Rentokil file release.

Some of the documentation being released includes personal data of third parties, specifically, names of individuals which have not been released into the public domain on any previous FOIs or literature regarding this topic. Where this is the case, these names and contact details have been redacted in line with exception Section 38 ((1)(b)) of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act – Personal information.

Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act – Notice that information is not held - an organisation is not required to provide information if it does not hold that information. NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) does not hold information in relation to communications involving individuals no longer employed by NSS in that, we no longer have access to their individual email accounts – Jim Miller, Director of Procurement Commissioning & Facilities; Martin Street, Strategic Sourcing Director; Peter McConnell, Head of Strategic Sourcing & Commercial.

Under Section 33 (1) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2002 - an organisation does not require to provide information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of any person (including, without prejudice to that generality, a Scottish public authority) and as such any cost information is being withheld as it is commercially sensitive.

Where this information (invoicing and tonnage data January 2021 – June 2021) has been withheld as it relates to existing contractual arrangements. There will be a future tender exercise taking place within the next 12 months and on that basis the release of this information is likely to substantially prejudice the commercial interests of companies involved in that future tender exercise.

Under Section 36 (1) - Confidentiality - Information in respect of which a claim to confidentiality of communication could be maintained in legal proceeding is exempt information.

Where this information (invoicing and tonnage data from June 2018 – December 2020) has been withheld it relates to an ongoing legal case and on that basis, there is a greater public interest in withholding the information to ensure fairness in the court proceedings.

I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the

Head of Information and Cyber Security
Digital and Security
NHS National Services Scotland
Headquarters
Gyle Square
1 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9EB

or at the email address nss.foi@nhs.scot within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online application form](#).

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely

