

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 5th September 2025

FOI Ref 30206

Requested Information:

I would like to request the following information regarding the destruction of medication by your NHS Trust.

Please provide:

1. The total weight (kg) of all medication destroyed by the trust in each calendar year from 1 January 2022 to the present date. If available, please also provide the corresponding monetary value (£).
2. A breakdown of the total amount destroyed (by weight and/or monetary value) by specific medication name. For example, the total weight and/or monetary value of "Medication X" destroyed. If a breakdown by name is not possible, please provide a breakdown by medication type (e.g., controlled drugs, chemotherapy drugs, antibiotics, antidepressants, painkillers, insulin, and vaccines) for the same period.
3. The reasons for the destruction of the medication (e.g., expired, recalled, damaged, etc.) for the same period, if this data is held and can be provided without exceeding the cost and time limits.

Please provide the information in an accessible electronic format, such as a spreadsheet (.csv or .xlsx) or a clearly formatted table.

I would be grateful if you could provide a response within the statutory 20 working days, as required by the Act. If any of the requested information is not held, please inform me of this in your response. If you are unable to provide all of the information requested, please provide what you can.

If you decide to withhold any information, please state the exemption you are relying on under the Act and explain why you believe it applies.

Response:

- The following shows the value all transactions that are recorded as expired stock. Other types of waste are not discernible from the data within the time available. Please note that 2025 is January to August only:

Years	Total
2022	£77,174
2023	£98,547
2024	£71,184
2025	£100,505

The weight of the stock cannot be calculated.

- The following shows the same transactions recorded in the table above (January 2022 to August 2025) by drug type:

Group	2022	2023	2024	2025
5HT - Receptor Agonists		£39	£64	
Adrenoceptor agonists				£61
Alkylating drugs	£29	£153	£8	£24
Allergic emergencies	£42	£3	£78	
Alpha-adrenoreceptor blocking drugs	£1,038	£157	£156	£159
Aminoglycosides		£22	£1,089	£266
Aminosalicylates	£51		£19	£48
Anaesthesia			£11	
Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors	£36	£86	-£0	£2
Angiotensin-II receptor antagonists	£11	£3	£51	£8
Antacids and simeticone	£2	£55		£17
Antagonists for central and respiratory depression		£4		
Anthelmintics				£59
Antibacterial preparations			£10	
Antibacterial preparations only used topically			£15	
Antibacterials	£1,600	£783	£76	£52
Anticholinesterases used in surgery	£3			
Anticoagulants and protamine				£15,584
Antifibrinolytic drugs and haemostatics	£1,020	£5	£3	£5
Antifibrotics				£0
Antifungal preparations				£5
Antifungals			£22	
Antihistamines	£1	£0	£89	
Anti-Infective Drugs		£10	£13	£14
Antileprotic drugs			£4	
Antimalarials		£53	£12	£1
Antimanic drugs	£146	£232	£117	£100
Antimetabolites	£3,243	£1,130	£1,799	£1,893

Antimotility drugs		£0		
Antimuscarinic bronchodilators		£118	£31	£19
Antimuscarinic drugs	£250	£23	£18	£22
Antimuscarinic drugs used in parkinsonism	£102		£120	£206
Anti-oestrogens and hypothalamic & anterior pituitary hormon		£175	£269	£150
Antiplatelet drugs	£36	£225	£33	
Antiproliferative Immunosuppressants	£77	£910	£658	£0
Antiprotozoal drugs	£254		£25	£25
Antipseudomonal penicillins		£342		
Antipsychotic depot injections	£352	£60		£64
Antipsychotic drugs	£534	£268	£538	£399
Antithyroid drugs	£27	£1	£4	£19
Antituberculous drugs	£291	£306	£75	£243
Antiviral drugs			£3,018	
Antiviral preparations	£1		£0	
Anxiolytics	£298	£141	£22	£11
Anxiolytics and neuroleptics	£1	£22	£24	£121
Astringents, oxidisers and dyes				£34
Barrier preparations			£9	
Benzylpenicillin and phenoxymethylpenicillin	£7		£4	
Beta-blockers	£130	£155	£5	£133
Biguanides	£1	£15	£14	£10
Biphasic, intermediate and long-acting insulins	£725	£231	£373	£2,345
Bisphosphonates & drugs affecting bone metabolism		£225	£66	£253
Bladder Installations & Urological Surgery		£6		£6
Borderline substances	£216	£2,791	£4,120	£391
Bowel cleansing solutions	£17			£14
Breast cancer	£2	£3	£5	£0
Broad-spectrum penicillins	£56	£57	£12	£33
Bromocriptine and other dopaminergic drugs		£9		
Calcitonin and teriparatide	£264			
Calcium and magnesium	£9			
Calcium supplements	£12	£4	£3	
Calcium-channel blockers	£65	£100	£8	£16
Carbapenems	£47			
Cardiac glycosides	£6	£2,712	£1	£2
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	£14			
Centrally acting antihypertensive drugs		£4	£6	£56
Cephalosporins	£733	£811	£36	£419
Cephalosporins and other beta-lactams	£168	£14	£1,020	£7
Chlorhexidine salts	£22	£3		
Chronic bowel disorders	£7	£33	£359	
Clindamycin	£2	£2	£34	£1
CNS stimulants & other drugs used for ADHD	£47	£133	£72	

Combined hormonal contraceptives	£102	£14	£47	£5
Compound haemorrhoidal preps with corticosteroids		£11	£5	
Consumables	£729	£193	£268	£173
Contrast Media	£150			£1,540
Control of epilepsy	£621	£869	£747	£405
Corticosteroids			£48	
Corticosteroids	£255	£211	£396	£284
Corticosteroids and other immunosuppressants	£12	£33	£27	£27
Cytomegalovirus infection	£87		£410	
Cytotoxic antibiotics	£16,806	£597	£420	£1,946
Cytotoxic drugs	£166	£845	£38	
Diag. & monitoring agents for diabetes mellitus	£4	£18	£16	£30
Digestive aids			£14	£15
Dopaminergic drugs used in parkinsonism	£1,767	£442	£783	£2,436
Drugs affecting gonadotrophins				£0
Drugs affecting gut motility	£1	£10	£6	£11
Drugs affecting intestinal secretions				£0
Drugs affecting the immune response				£0
Drugs affecting the immune response.		£7		£4
Drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system	£372	£29	£5	£10
Drugs for arrhythmias	£61	£13	£616	
Drugs for dementia	£0	£3	£69	£4
Drugs for hypoplastic, haemolytic & renal anaemias	£65	£285	£154	£2,265
Drugs for Impotence	£1			
Drugs for pneumocystis pneumonia			£230	
Drugs used in autoimmune thrombocytopenic purpura	£434			
Drugs used in diabetes				£94
Drugs used in essential tremor, chorea, tics etc.	£144	£62	£53	£14
Drugs used in megaloblastic anaemias	£21	£65	£69	£4
Drugs used in metabolic disorders	£539	£65		
Drugs used in nasal allergy	£104	£11	£10	£14
Drugs used in nausea and vertigo	£17	£14	£248	£295
Drugs used in neutropenia	£60	£30	£4	
Drugs used in rheumatic diseases and gout	£125		£235	£0
Drugs used in status epilepticus	£128	£85	£87	£2,556
Drugs used in Urological Pain		£2,321	£17	
Drugs which enhance neuromuscular transmission		£2		
Drugs which suppress the rheumatic disease process	£343	£2	£174	£4
Echinocandin antifungals			£68	
Electrolytes and water	£347	£939	£1,030	£2,035
Emergency Contraception		£64		
Emergency treatment of poisoning	£6,233	£1,506	£2,424	£140

Emollient bath additives				£8
Emollients	£11		£17	
Endocrine system		£88		£352
Enteral nutrition	£59	£21	£23	£0
Faecal softeners		£3	£3	
Female sex hormones				£6
Fibrinolytic drugs			£1,555	
Fluids and electrolytes	£598	£89	£12	£19
Foods for special diets	£13	£0	£0	
G6PD deficiency	£0			
General anaesthesia			£120	£157
Glaucoma	£131	£58	£350	£60
Glucocorticoid therapy	£181	£99	£157	£195
Gout and cytotoxic-induced hyperuricaemia	£27	£33	£6	£12
H2-receptor antagonists	£105	£372	£83	
Herpes simplex and varicella-zoster infection	£180	£36	£73	
Herpesvirus infections	£1,432	£1,634	£242	£896
Hormone antagonists	£87	£2	£7	£2
Hydrogel dressings	£79			
Hypercalcaemia and hypercalciuria				£658
Hypnotics	£1	£101	£57	£391
Hypodermic equipment		£148		
Immunological products and vaccines				£0
Influenza	£142	£140	£138	£12
Inotropic sympathomimetics	£208			
Insulins		£17		
Intravenous anaesthetics	£45	£184	£11,351	£12
Iron-deficiency anaemias	£3	£111	£19	£3
Leukotriene receptor antagonists			£1	
Lipid-regulating drugs	£268	£157	£102	£3
Local anaesthesia	£636	£814	£115	£89
Local corticosteroid injections				£67
Local sclerosants			£176	
Loop diuretics	£24	£1	£15	£6
Macrolides	£174	£93	£558	
Magnesium	£1,474	£92	£308	£736
Malignant disease and immunosuppression	£0	£2,219	£9,223	£29,703
Mecillinams		£10		
Metronidazole and tinidazole	£293	£131	£82	£50
Mifepristone	£183			
Miscellaneous	£3,345	£3,566	£3,984	£5,331
Miscellaneous ophthalmic preparations	£1,476		£219	£96
Monoamine-oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs)	£80		£432	
Mouthwashes, gargles and dentifrices	£1	£2	£0	
Multivitamin preparations	£8	£112	£66	£130
Muscle relaxants	£482	£25		£30

Mydriatics and cycloplegics	£67	£263	£30	
Myometrial Relaxants		£23		
Nasal preparations for infection and epistaxis	£7	£13	£16	
Nicotine Dependence		£19	£41	£155
Nitrates	£18	£19	£40	£0
Non-opioid analgesics			£4	
Non-opioid analgesics and compound preparations	£317	£241	£8	£9
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs	£1	£31	£67	£14
Normal Immunoglobulin	£2,338	£5,388		
Not used 3		£9		
Nucleoside/nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors	£8	£574	£175	£0
Nutrition and blood	£873	£272		£288
Ocular diagnostic & peri-operative preparations	£61		£137	£71
Ocular lubricants and astringents	£13	£39	£14	£4
Oestrogens	£22		£119	£0
Oestrogens and HRT		£357		
Opioid analgesics	£743	£2,686	£1,374	£2,551
Opioid Dependence	£16	£18	£507	£344
Oral anticoagulants	£597	£516	£713	£70
Oral antidiabetic drugs		£124	£88	
Oral iron	£41	£33	£40	£7
Oral nutrition	£0			
Oral potassium			£1	£85
Oral preparations for acne	£14			£6
Oral preps for fluid and electrolyte imbalance	£350	£201		£8
Oral sodium and water	£1		£3	
Oropharyngeal anti-infective drugs	£3		£95	
Osmotic laxatives		£6		
Other antidepressant drugs	£31	£17	£20	£0
Other antidiabetics	£495	£185	£522	£270
Other antifungals		£2		
Other anti-inflammatory preparations	£12	£19	£6	
Other antineoplastic drugs	£2,537	£15,530	£430	£10,895
Other beta-lactam antibiotics				£0
Other immunomodulating drugs	£2,216	£13,560	£0	£3,230
Otitis externa	£9			£4
Pancreatin		£49	£29	
Parenteral anticoagulants	£651	£1,392	£4,881	£1,637
Parenteral iron		£115		
Parenteral nutrition	£68	£679	£654	£0
Parenteral preps for fluid & electrolyte imbalance	£429	£23	£105	£859
Penicillinase-resistant penicillins	£10	£768	£5	£8
Penicillins	£65	£286	£35	£41
Peripheral and cerebral vasodilators				£22
Peripheral vasodilators and related drugs	£2			

Phosphate supplements		£4		£4
Phosphate-binding agents		£49	£361	£234
Phosphodiesterase inhibitors		£29		
Phosphodiesterase type-4 inhibitors	£80		£86	
Polyene antifungals	£38			£39
Potassium-channel activators	£13	£8		
Potassium-sparing diuretics & aldosterone antagonists	£50			£6
Potassium-sparing diuretics with other diuretics	£10	£14	£10	£5
Preparations for Vaginal Atrophy		£9		£10
Progestogen-Only Contraceptives			£81	
Progestogens	£19		£96	£0
Prophylaxis of migraine	£0			
Prostaglandins & Oxytocics		£0	£2,826	
Prostate cancer and gonadorelin analogues				£0
Proton pump inhibitors	£2	£49	£16	£44
Psoriasis	£26		£32	
Quinolones	£525	£751	£123	£3
Removal of ear wax	£1			
Respiratory system				£1,716
Rituximab and alemtuzumab	£0	£0	£0	£0
Rubefacients and other topical antirheumatics	£5	£4		
Schistosomicides			£63	
Sedative and analgesic peri-operative drugs	£2	£301	£54	
Selective beta-2-agonists	£10		£18	£3
Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors	£0	£0	£2	£1
Sex hormones & antagonists in malignant disease				£0
Short-acting Insulins	£151	£218	£107	£377
Skeletal muscle relaxants	£1,709	£100	£325	
Somatostatin analogues	£12	£7		£113
Some other antibacterials	£1,660	£47	£189	£50
Soothing haemorrhoidal preparations				£3
Stimulant laxatives	£9	£14	£208	
Sulphonamides and trimethoprim		£19	£62	£12
Sulphonylureas		£1	£1	£5
Systemic nasal decongestants	£2			
Tetracyclines	£3	£18	£83	£182
Theophylline	£3		£3	
Thiazides and related diuretics	£38	£11	£2	£1
Thyroid hormones	£5,745	£13,207		£0
Topical corticosteroids		£50	£113	£10
Topical local anaesthetics and antipruritics				£10
Topical nasal decongestants		£6		
Topical preparations for acne			£24	
Treatment of dry mouth		£36		
Treatment of hypoglycaemia	£138	£7,197	£1,840	

Treatment of the acute migraine attack	£6		£1	
Triazole Antifungals	£60	£72	£29	
Tricyclic and related antidepressant drugs	£44	£8	£24	£0
Urinary Frequency, Enuresis & Incontinence Drugs	£25	£16	£69	£15
Urinary retention		£0		£1
Urinary-tract infections	£11	£5	£3	£20
Vaccines and antisera	£268	£405	£148	£0
Vasoconstrictor sympathomimetics	£231	£3		£4
Vasodilator antihypertensive drugs		£4		£7
Vinca alkaloids and etoposide	£6	£202	£84	£198
Vitamin A	£8	£3	£3	£203
Vitamin B group	£798	£5	£60	£5
Vitamin D	£12	£133	£354	£10
Vitamin E		£312	£693	
Vitamin K	£5	£38		
Grand Total	£77,174	£98,547	£71,184	£100,505

3. Please see answer to question 1 concerning types of wastage.
Please note that some rarely used medicines such as anti-venom and antidotes are required to be kept in stock in case of an incident that could happen at any hospital across our region. It is normal for them to expire before use and need to be replaced, it is not necessarily an indicator of excess inventory. Similarly cancer drugs are often manufactured in advance for specific patients at specific doses and with short expiry dates. If the patient is then too unwell to receive the medicine on the day of treatment, these doses may be wasted.

Attachment(s):

No Attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 11th September 2025