

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 21st July 2025

FOI Ref No 29643

Requested Information:

Please could you provide the following information for your **ultrasound diagnostic services**:

1. Average Cost of Ultrasound Diagnostics

- The average cost per ultrasound diagnostic procedure over the past 12 months, broken down (if available) by staffing category:
 - a) Substantive (permanent employed) staff
 - b) Agency staff
 - c) Insourced staff or external providers

2. Staffing Breakdown for Ultrasound Diagnostics

- Over the same 12-month period:
 - a) The total number of ultrasound diagnostic procedures performed, broken down by substantive staff, agency staff, and insourced/external providers.
 - b) Monthly or quarterly breakdowns of these figures, if available.
 - c) The percentage share of ultrasound diagnostic activity delivered by each staffing group.

3. External Provider Usage

- Can you confirm if the Trust currently uses any external providers or insourced companies to deliver ultrasound diagnostic services and/or reporting services?
- If yes, please specify the name(s) of the external provider(s).
- Where possible, please indicate the approximate volume or percentage of weekly ultrasound activity or reporting covered by these external providers.

4. Ultrasound Rooms and Equipment Utilisation

- Please confirm how many ultrasound rooms are fully in use during operational hours.
- Are all ultrasound machines/equipment currently available in these rooms being fully utilised?

5. Could we kindly have the true Cost of running the Ultrasound Service

Response:

1. Average Cost of Ultrasound Diagnostics

- The average cost per ultrasound diagnostic procedure over the past 12 months, broken down (if available) by staffing category:
 - a) Substantive (permanent employed) staff
 - b) Agency staff
 - c) Insourced staff or external providers

We cannot provide a true cost of running the ultrasound service at this time

2. Staffing Breakdown for Ultrasound Diagnostics

- Over the same 12-month period:
 - a. The total number of ultrasound diagnostic procedures performed, broken down by substantive staff, agency staff, and insourced/external providers.
 - **Medicare performed approximately 1373 scans – external**
 - **71,829 for the main Ultrasound – substantive staff**
 - **Agency – nil**

3. External Provider Usage

- Can you confirm if the Trust currently uses any external providers or insourced companies to deliver ultrasound diagnostic services and/or reporting services?
 - **No**
- If yes, please specify the name(s) of the external provider(s).
- Where possible, please indicate the approximate volume or percentage of weekly ultrasound activity or reporting covered by these external providers.

4. Ultrasound Rooms and Equipment Utilisation

- Please confirm how many ultrasound rooms are fully in use during operational hours.
 - **12 rooms**
- Are all ultrasound machines/equipment currently available in these rooms being fully utilised?
 - **No**

5. Could we kindly have the true Cost of running the Ultrasound Service
- **MES contact costs commercially confidential.**

Attachment(s):

No Attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 27 November 2025