

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 02 October 2025

FOI Ref 30527

Requested Information:

Please provide the following information for the period **1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025**, broken down by financial year:

- 1) Total expenditure by the Trust on pest control services, including both in-house provision and external/contracted services.
- 2) If any services are contracted out, please provide the supplier name(s) and the contract value(s).
- 3) The number of call-outs/treatments by species category (e.g. rats, mice, pigeons, gulls, foxes, grey squirrels, wasps, bedbugs, cockroaches—please use your own categories if recorded differently).
- 4) For any lethal control commissioned or carried out by the Trust, the number of animals killed by species and, where recorded, the method used (e.g. trapping, poisoning, shooting).
- 5) A copy of any policy, guidance, or standard operating procedure relating to the Trust's pest control service or contractors.

Please also provide the information in CSV, Excel, or another machine-readable format where possible.

Response:

Total expenditure by the Trust on pest control services, including both in-house provision and external/contracted services.

1. Spend with external providers:

2020-21: £10,979

2021-22: £14,905

2022-23: £21,608

2023-24: £22,878

2024-25: £25,337

Total: £95,705

2) If any services are contracted out, please provide the supplier name(s) and the contract value(s).

NBC Environment provide a Falconry service, currently under review.

3) The number of call-outs/treatments by species category (e.g. rats, mice, pigeons, gulls, foxes, grey squirrels, wasps, bedbugs, cockroaches—please use your own categories if recorded differently).

Falconry and visits are per the schedule planned.

4) For any lethal control commissioned or carried out by the Trust, the number of animals killed by species and, where recorded, the method used (e.g. trapping, poisoning, shooting).

For Falconry only, no planned or commissioned animals killed - Deterring pest birds using birds of prey a natural method of bird control.

5) A copy of any policy, guidance, or standard operating procedure relating to the Trust's pest control service or contractors.

<https://doclibrary-richt.cornwall.nhs.uk/DocumentsLibrary/RoyalCornwallHospitalsTrust/EstatesAndFacilities/Facilities/PestControlPolicy.pdf>

Attachment(s):

No Attachment(s):

Date Response sent: 6 November 2025

Section 43 Commercial Sensitivity

Regarding Question 2 the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust have considered this part of your request and after careful consideration, have concluded that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 43 (2)1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

143. (2) Information is exempt from disclosure under this Act as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Exemption 43 (2) is a qualified exemption and the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust have fully considered the balance of public interest and are satisfied that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. The Trust considers that there is a real likelihood of harm arising to both its own commercial interests but also to our supplier's commercial interests.