



Kent and Medway
NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Information Governance Department

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Sent via email

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Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 32311 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding:-

Use of herbicide containing Glyphosate on hospital grounds

Your request is set out below:

What is your policy for weed control in the hospital's grounds?

KMPT treat weed growth at the earliest stage possible using either a knapsack sprayer, strimmer, hoe or general hand pulling. It depends on the area in question as to what method would be most practical.

Do you use herbicides containing glyphosate eg Roundup, Weedol etc

If yes, what do you use What areas have been sprayed with herbicides containing glyphosate?

KMPT use roundup which use glyphosate as the active ingredient, areas that would be treated would be hard surfaces with any weed growth.

What is your policy on the use of glyphosate?

KMPT do not have a specific policy on glyphosate; however we are a qualified accredited contractor in Amenity pesticide application through the BASIS Amenity Assured Scheme. This means we are audited on the documentation required to be kept, how equipment is kept and maintained, the qualifications and on-going training of employees applying professional pesticide products and how work is recorded through method statements, calibration records and risk assessments.

By being Amenity Assured we are also recognised under the Amenity Standard, which has been set up to provide reassurance to the public that methods are safe.

We do use glyphosate as an industry recognised effective treatment for weeds suppression especially injurious and invasive species such as giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed. We have trialled other forms of treatment such as hot water spraying and burning, however have not found them to be cost effective / practical to apply. We are continuing to assess different and more sustainable ways of treating weed.

We are proud to be smoke free

Trust Chair – Dr Jackie Craissati
Chief Executive – Helen Greatorex

What precautions were taken ahead of its use?

Any operative applying or mixing chemicals will hold a valid PA1 and PA6 qualification which is the industry leading qualification. Prior to applying chemicals there are many factors taken into account i.e wind speed, the likely hood of rain and he areas needing treating is they are built up.

For the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, please can you tell me:

The volume of these herbicides you have you used and the cost

All information requested is not routinely collected outside normal record keeping of a completion sheets. The requested information is not held centrally and is contained within the individual completion sheets which can not be extracted as a stand alone piece of data. In order to extract the requested information and collate the results would require a manual exercise to identify and review completion sheets and would exceed the appropriate time limits, as per the Freedom of Information Act 2000 section 12(1) which does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

I confirm that the information above/attached completes your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am also pleased to confirm that no charge will be made for this request.

If you have any questions or concerns or are unhappy with the response provided or the service you have received you can write to the Head of Information Governance at the address on top of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of
The Information Governance Department