

Freedom of Information Team  
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Name:  
Email:  
Date: 17/05/2023  
Ref: 23-24 037

Dear

**RE: Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 18/04/2023. Please see responses to your requests below.

**1. The number of registered audits/quality improvement projects/research projects (planned and completed) since October 2020 at your trust.**

The Trust's clinical audit plans (including quality improvement projects (QIPs) are organised as rolling annual plans:

Audit Year	Planned	Completed
April 2020-March 2021	701	349
April 2021-March 2022	602	241
April 2022-March 2023	597	294

**2. The number of audits/quality improvement projects/research projects that have an environmental/sustainability focus as part of their agenda.**

The Trust's clinical audit projects focus on improvements in the care and treatment processes that patients receive compared with nationally recognised/published standards of care by the royal medical colleges/NICE or local clinical policies. These do not tend to document or include environmental/sustainability considerations as the quality of care and patient safety is the paramount focus of clinical audit.

Year	Environmental/Sustainability focus
April 2020-March 2021	0
April 2021-March 2022	0
April 2022-March 2023	4

**3. A breakdown of the topics that the environmental/sustainability audits/quality improvement projects/research projects focus on.**

Audit of Fresh Gas Flow (FGF) use in Total Intravenous Anaesthetic (TIVA) : By evaluating FGF use and the relation to Soda Lime consumption this presents the possibility for cost savings as well as reducing the environmental impact of the department due to the significant carbon footprint of the production of soda lime capsules (Jan-2023 - ongoing).

Review of carbon usage in the Endoscopy department: Aim is to evaluate and map the usage of carbon in a GI endoscopy unit and to recommend initiatives to reduce carbon usage (Jan-2023 – Ongoing).

A national quality improvement project to examine dermatology minor operation non-sharps waste management and recycling practices: Aim to explore non-sharps waste management practices of dermatology minor operation lists and to suggest a national benchmark for recycling of non-contaminated waste (Mar-2022 – ongoing).

Healing the patient, harming the planet – moving towards more sustainable Orthodontics: Aim to increase recycling and reduce clinical waste produced in the Orthodontic department and to encourage staff to challenge their working practices using the sustainability paradigm (Oct-2022 – ongoing).

**4. Whether your Trust has a sustainability lead.**

Yes.

**5. Whether your Trust has a sustainability policy included in clinical governance meetings and junior doctor induction materials.**

No.

**6. Does your trust have a sustainability working group/board and how many clinicians are on this.**

Yes – the sustainability programme board was established in November 2022. There are two clinical representatives: Medical Director and Clinical Director for Finance and Strategic Estates.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on [Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk) or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information, please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team