FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 378/19

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request / Response:

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about the way your organisation deals with sharps, specifically non-anticipated sharps.

Definition of ‘sharps’
By ‘sharps’, I mean any objects that are dangerous by virtue of the fact that they can pierce the skin. Examples include needles, broken glass and blades etc.

Definition of ‘non-anticipated’
By ‘non-anticipated’, I mean sharps that do not originate with equipment owned or used by your organisation. Examples include hypodermics from drug users who are your patients, clients or service users; broken bottles and crockery; self-harm implements from your patients, clients or service users or weapons.

My Questions Are:

1. Do you have policies or procedures for dealing with sharps?

Answer:
Regarding hypodermics, yes, via contractors. Regarding other sharps, no, although if injuries were sustained due to a non-hypodermic sharp, first aid procedures would be followed.

2. If so, do you treat all sharps the same or do you have separate policies or procedures for non-anticipated sharps?

Answer:
Anticipated sharps relate only to hypodermics collected by a contractor as part of ‘clinical waste collections, where procedures apply. For non-anticipated sharps, procedures would be followed, depending on the nature and location. For example, reports or intelligence of hypodermics in a public place would be investigated promptly by officers or a contractor and cleared by a contractor. Rutland County Council has no specific relevant policies.

3. Can I please have a copy of these policies and procedures.
Answer:
As these procedures are those of contractors, these cannot be provided by Rutland County Council.

4. How many times did you need to deal with non-anticipated sharps in the past five years?
Answer:
Rutland County Council does not hold this information.

5. How long (on average) has it taken you to deal with non-anticipated sharps (in the past five years)?
Answer:
Rutland County Council does not hold this information.

6. What is the longest that it has taken you to deal with a non-anticipated sharp (in the past five years)?
Answer:
Rutland County Council does not hold this information.

7. How many times have you not followed your own procedures in dealing with non-anticipated sharps (in the past five years)?
Answer:
Not Applicable

8. Where your procedures were not followed, what actions did you take to ensure better practice in the future?
Answer:
Not Applicable

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Data Protection Officer, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Business Support Team
Rutland County Council