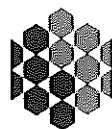


FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
Edwin Poots MLA



Department of
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and Public Safety**

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Mr David McClarty MLA
1 Upper Abbey Street
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Our Ref: SUB/52/2012

17 January 2012

Dear David

I refer to your recent written Assembly Questions regarding intensive care ventilators returned to the supplier (AQW 4461/11-15 and AQW 4463/11-15) and I would advise of an amendment to my original reply.

In respect of AQW 4461, it has been drawn to our attention that the process for recouping the monies for these ventilators had been instigated but the money had not actually been received by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust at the time of writing. The monies have subsequently been received (as of 7 December 2011).

I trust this information is helpful and apologise for any confusion this error may have caused.

I have copied the letter to the Assembly Library Services for their information.

Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE FOR ANSWER: 29 November, 2011

ORDINARY WRITTEN NO: AQW 4461/11-15 & AQW 4463/11-15

David McClarty (Londonderry East): To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of intensive care ventilators purchased between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, which have been returned to the supplier; (ii) the date on which each ventilator was returned; and (iii) the amount recovered from the supplier, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area.

David McClarty (Londonderry East): To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number and cost of intensive care ventilators purchased between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009; and, of these, how many were purchased as (a) direct replacements; or (b) additional stock; and (ii) how many of the ventilators remained unused between 31 December 2010 and 31 October 2011, broken down by each Health and Social Care Trust area.

Edwin Poots

I will answer both these questions together.

Ten paediatric intensive care ventilators purchased as part of the preparation to meet expected additional surge capacity during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic were returned to the manufacturer on 29 September 2011. This was part of a buy-back option negotiated with the manufacturer and the process for recouping the sum of £84,280 (plus VAT) has been instigated by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

One hundred intensive care ventilators (plus associated equipment) were purchased between 1 April and 31 December 2009 at a total cost of £4.3m. Of these, 13 were purchased as direct replacements of older stock; 87 were purchased as additional stock to enable Trusts to expand their critical care capacity to meet the demands of the pandemic at that time, but also to enhance capacity to meet other surge demands such as annual winter pressures.

Eleven paediatric intensive care ventilators have not been used to date but remain available for use by Trusts to meet any future surge demands. A breakdown of information by Trust area is outlined in the table below.

Table: Number of intensive care ventilators purchased between 1 April and 31 December 2011, broken down by Trust area

Trust		Number of intensive care ventilators purchased between 1 Apr. and 31 Dec. 2009	Were these purchased as		How many ventilators remained unused between 31 Dec. 2010 and 31 Oct. 2011?
			direct replacements of existing stock?	additional stock?	
BHSCT	Adult	18	-	18	0
	Paeds	21*	1	20	6
	Neonatal	6	-	6	0
NHSCT	Adult	7	-	7	0
	Paeds	2	-	2	2
	Neonatal	2	-	2	0
SEHSCT	Adults	16	12	4	0
	Paeds	4	-	4	0
	Neonatal	3	-	3	0
SHSCT	Adult	4	-	4	0
	Paeds	8	-	8	0
	Neonatal	3	-	3	0
WHSCT	Adult	2	-	2	0
	Paeds	3	-	3	3
	Neonatal	1	-	1	0
Totals		100	13	87	11

* 10 of these paediatric intensive care ventilators were placed in sealed storage and returned as part of the buy-back option which was exercised in Sept. 2011



Date: 17/1/2012

Signed and approved by the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety