

**Reference Number:** FOI202223/097  
**From:** Private Individual  
**Date:** 06 June 2022  
**Subject:** Use of herbicide containing Glyphosate on hospital grounds; policy for weed control, policy on the use of glyphosate, precautions in place and the volume and cost of these

Please note, this Hard FM service is outsourced, and response has been provided by the supplier.

Q1 What is your policy for weed control in the hospital's grounds?

A1 Using chemical herbicide, kill off all weed growth from hard surfaces and remove once dead from site (does not treat moss). Please note that Local Service Operators, Supervisors and Service Managers using chemical herbicides are trained and certificated under the requirement of the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985, to NPTC PA1 and PA6 certification, all chemicals used are approved under the Control of Pesticides Regulation 1986 (COPR). (Excludes Japanese knotweed/giant hogweed)

Q2 Do you use herbicides containing glyphosate eg Roundup, Weedol etc  
a. If yes, what do you use?  
b. What areas have been sprayed with herbicides containing glyphosate?

A2 Yes  
a. Gallop Biodegradable.  
b. Hard surfaces including pathways etc.

Q3 What is your policy on the use of glyphosate?

A3 We ensure that our choices result in minimum impact on the non-target areas, require minimum application but have maximum effectiveness. However, we avoid use wherever possible. We go through a lengthy selection process to ensure that all of the products we use are the most environmentally friendly commercially available products. When it comes to the application of pesticides and herbicides, we use a hand targeted spot spraying technique and regulated knapsacks rather than the larger boom spray techniques. This reduces the amount of chemical that is used, and ensures we only target the weed/pest we want to eradicate. We only apply chemical when conditions are suitable for maximum effectiveness, so if there is rain or similar poor weather forecast, we would not spray pesticide for two reasons; firstly, the rain would dilute the product, reducing its effectiveness and requiring a re-spray in the near future. Secondly, rain water runoff would then contain chemicals which could enter the water system or potentially cause damage to the ecosystem outside of the targeted area. Upon review of the site, we may additionally propose horticultural techniques that reduce, or completely avoid the need for pesticide use i.e. clean/well swept and maintained hard surfaces, fully planted areas, mulch and re-mulch, hand weed only.

Q4 What precautions were taken ahead of its use?

A4 Please see A3 above

- Q5 For the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, please can you tell me:
- a. The volume of these herbicides you have you used
  - b. The cost

A5 Information not held – we are unable to provide this information for Alder Hey specially as it is recorded nationwide for all clients, and not specially for the NHS.