

Our Ref: NG/RM/25178
Date: 11th June 2025

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Lawton House
Bellringer Road
Trentham
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 13th May 2025. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)

Requested information:

I would like to submit a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) regarding health concerns linked to chemical flame retardants (CfRs), including those classified as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), used in furniture within your hospital facilities. Please provide the relevant information for the period between 1st January 2022 until the date this request is processed.

Please could you provide the following:

1. The total number of reported incidents, complaints, or logged concerns received by your Trust in which patient health issues (e.g. skin irritation, respiratory symptoms, allergic reactions) were linked to chemical flame retardants (CfRs) present in hospital furniture (such as mattress covers, beds, chairs, cushions, or other furnishings) used in your facilities. **None recorded**
2. Details of any correspondence (internal or external), meeting minutes, or formal complaints that reference concerns about the health impacts of chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in furniture within your facility. **None recorded**
3. Information on whether your Trust has conducted or commissioned any safety reviews, risk assessments, or evaluations regarding the use of chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in hospital furniture. **None**
4. Details of any changes made to procurement policy, furniture specifications, or supplier contracts made in response to concerns about chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in furniture. **All products that have been purchased and supplied meet the relevant Fire Regulations and standards, including legislation of ignition source 5.**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted

within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance