

FOI REF: 23/198

3rd May 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

I am requesting the following information about nitrous oxide monitoring:

1. Have you carried out nitrous oxide/Entonox personal sampling in your trust?

Yes.

If so, which departments have you carried out personal sampling in?

Maternity.

2. Did you find high results in any staff members?

Yes.

If yes:

There was 1 (one) member of staff that was found to be higher than expected.

a. How many staff members were affected?

1.

b. What was the highest result you found?

41% of the Workplace Exposure limit (WEL).

c. Were these staff members informed?

Yes.

Cont.../

d. What action was taken? (e.g. have you installed mobile destruction units?)

Staff were informed. Individual scavenger units had already been installed in each room.

Room based clinically led risk assessments that include:

- A reinspection of scavenging units including placement of housekeeping checks and instructions for scavenging units.
- Ventilation reassessment including ensuring the placement of staff in clean air flows.
- A review of staff training in the use of Entonox.
- Retraining of staff in the patients use of the rebreather systems and refreshing training in the use and checks of the individual scavenging units.

In addition, planning of further personal monitoring to maintain assurance of the controls to mitigate exposure to staff.

e. Have you suspended the use of Entonox at your trust?

No.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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