

EIR REF: 25/370

10th June 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION ACT

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

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 1 January 2022 until the date this request is processed.

- 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.**

[There have been no reported incidents, complaints or logged concerns received by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust in respect of the above.](#)

- 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.**

[We do not hold this information, and the Trust have not received any formal complaints concerning the health impacts of chemical flame retardants in furniture.](#)

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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.

The only risk assessments that have occurred are generic fire risk assessments and the assessors will have made assumptions that all furnishings are of the relevant fire safety standard. These assessments do not constitute a specific safety review, risk assessment, or evaluation regarding the use of chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in hospital furniture.

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.

There have been no changes made to our Policy.

Our Healthcare furniture is purchased from suppliers on the NHS Supply Chain Framework - 2024/S 000-025534 – Medical Healthcare Furniture.

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 EIR 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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net