

Trust Headquarters
Russells Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-052025-0001612

Date: 19.6.25

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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. 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.

The Trust does not have a specific category on our incident reporting system for this type of event

A keyword search has been run based on the following: CFR, chemical flame retardant, flame retardant, skin irritation, skin irritant

This has brought back no relevant results

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. – **No incidents found, see response to question 1.**

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. - **Furniture would be procured via approved providers**

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.

The procurement of furniture already includes the relevant questions / checks regarding fire retardancy”

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust