FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

REF: 2026-2
Subject: EIR-Formaldehyde Exposure in Surgery

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email dated **5th January 2026** where you requested information about **EIR-Formaldehyde Exposure in Surgery.**

The information you requested is enclosed.

Under the Environmental Information Regulations (2004), please provide the following information relating to employee exposure to formaldehyde (formalin) in the Trust's *operating/surgical theatres*.	
Documents requested:	
1. Please provide the current COSHH risk assessment(s) relating to formaldehyde (formalin) exposure for staff working in operating/surgical theatres, produced to meet the Trust's duties under COSHH Regulation 6.	
2. Please provide copies of all formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring data held by the Trust for operating/surgical theatre staff for the last 12 months, including: • Fixed/static air monitoring results • Personal exposure or badge monitoring results (with personal data redacted as appropriate)	
This request includes monitoring undertaken for any purpose, including baseline, verification, and/or investigation monitoring, in line with COSHH Regulation 10. It is noted that COSHH Regulation 10(5)(b) requires such records to be kept for a minimum of five years.	
Questions	**Answer**
3. How does the Trust prevent or control employee exposure to formaldehyde (formalin) in its operating/surgical theatres, including but not limited to engineering, procedural, and/or organisational controls?	Risk assessment in place.
4. Does the Trust undertake regular scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring in operating/surgical theatres? If so, please state the frequency.	Last scheduled monitoring was from 2022.
5. Please state the total number of occasions on which regular scheduled	0

formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring has been undertaken in operating/surgical theatres in the last 12 months.	
6. If regular scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring is ***not*** undertaken, please provide documentation held by the Trust that demonstrates the effectiveness of current controls and supports the decision that routine monitoring is not required. If no such documentation is held, please confirm how the Trust assures compliance with COSHH Regulations 7 and 10 in the absence of routine exposure monitoring.	Risk assessment

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Department. It would be helpful to quote the above reference number in any future communication.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to The Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, The Royal Bolton Hospital, Minerva Road, Farnworth, Bolton. BL4 0JR.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF.

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Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Department

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

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transforming lives...for a better Bolton

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