

FOI 3552

20th January 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1: Under the Environmental Information Regulations (2004), please provide the following information with regards to employee formaldehyde exposure in the Trust's gastrointestinal endoscopy suites.

Documents to disclose:

Please provide the formaldehyde exposure risk assessment that is currently used by the Trust's gastrointestinal endoscopy team to fulfil employer obligations under COSHH regulations (2002) Section 6.

Response:

COSHH risk assessment for formaldehyde available on SharePoint,

Open:

<[http://sharepoint/as/icu/COSSH/COSHH/RISK_ASSESSMENTS/COSHH_Risk_Assessment_Form - Formalin Solution, neutral buffered 10 percent.docx](http://sharepoint/as/icu/COSSH/COSHH/RISK_ASSESSMENTS/COSHH_Risk_Assessment_Form_-_Formalin_Solution,_neutral_buffered_10_percent.docx)>

Open in Web:

<http://sharepoint/as/icu/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc={E4DE5D2C-0FE2-482F-A0C0-6E4D44A6150F}&file=COSHH_Risk%20Assessment%20Form%20-%20Formalin%20Solution,%20neutral%20buffered%2010%20percent.docx&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1>

Question 2: Please provide *all* formaldehyde exposure monitoring data (both fixed static monitoring and personal badge monitoring, with personal details redacted as appropriate) relating to the Trust's gastrointestinal endoscopy service encompassing the last 12 months that is used to fulfill employer obligations under COSHH regulations (2002) Section 10. It is noted that such records should be kept available for at least 5 years under COSHH regulations (2002) Section 10(5)(b).

Response:

THEATRE DAY SURGERY UNIT CRAIGAVON AREA HOSPITAL –

Badge Reference	Sample time (min)	Weight Detected (μg s)	Conc. (mg/m^3)	8-hour TWA (mg/m^3)	WEL/STEL (mg/m^3)	Result as % of WEL	Comment
A391245	204	2.1	0.36	0.15	2.5	6	3 Gynae Procedures
A391302	25	<0.2	<0.28	<0.5		<20	STEL
A391280	NA	0.2	NA	NA		NA	
A391234	NA	0.2	NA	NA		NA	STEL

ROOMS 33, 35 & 36 GLENNANE UNIT CRAIGAVON AREA HOSPITAL –

Badge Reference	Sample time (min)	Weight Detected (μg s)	Conc. (mg/m^3)	8-hour TWA (mg/m^3)	WEL/STEL (mg/m^3)	Result as % of WEL	Comment
A385251	503	<0.2	<0.014	<0.015	2.5	<0.6	
A385196	504	<0.2	<0.014	<0.015		<0.6	
A389691	501	<0.2	<0.014	<0.015		<0.6	
A389685	499	<0.2	<0.014	<0.015		<0.6	
A389704	499	0.2	0.014	0.015		0.6	
A389703	496	0.2	0.014	0.014		0.6	
A389687	20	<0.2	<0.35	<0.467		<19	STEL
A391234	NA	0.2	NA	NA		NA	

THEATRE 5 DAISY HILL HOSPITAL

Reference	Weight Detected (μg s)	Formaldehyde Conc. (mg/m^3)	Formaldehyde TWA (mg/m^3)	WEL/STEL (mg/m^3)	Result as % of WEL/STEL	Comment
23-51902-006	1.1	0.075	0.080	2.5 WEL	3.2	2 Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy & 2 Laparoscopic hernias

THEATRE 3 DAISY HILL HOSPITAL –

Sample Time (mins)	Formaldehyde (μg)	Concentration (mg/m^3)	8-hour TWA * (mg/m^3)	WEL (mg/m^3)	Result as % of WEL
539	<0.2	<0.013	<0.015	2.5	<0.6
537	<0.2	<0.013	<0.015		<0.6
540	<0.2	<0.013	<0.015		<0.6

THEATRE 4 DAISY HILL HOSPITAL –

Sample Time (mins)	Formaldehyde (μg)	Concentration (mg/m^3)	8-hour TWA * (mg/m^3)	WEL (mg/m^3)	Result as % of WEL
524	<0.2	<0.013	<0.015	2.5	<0.6
512	<0.2	<0.014	<0.015		<0.6
517	<0.2	<0.014	<0.016		<0.7

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.

Question 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?

The Trust introduced prefilled specimen pots to remove the risks of inhalation when decanting some years ago.

Question 4: Does the Trust undertake regular scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring in operating/surgical theatres? If so, please state the frequency.

Response:

The Trust conducts scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring in operating/surgical theatres on a biennial basis. The most recent results provided are from late 2023 and early 2024, with the next monitoring cycle currently scheduled for early 2026.

Question 5: Please state the total number of occasions on which regular scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring has been undertaken in operating/surgical theatres in the last 12 months.

Response:

This is undertaken on a biennial basis and is due in 2026.

Question 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.

Response:

Monitoring is undertaken and is scheduled for 2026.

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