

Date: Thursday, 13th July 2023
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 5804

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5804

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 28th June 2023.

Your request was as follows:

1. Since 2018 until now, how many complaints have you had about potential excessive exposure to Nitrous Oxide via Entonox and prolonged exposure of staff to high levels of nitrous oxide? Please provide these figures broken down year-by-year eg. 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 so far.

I can confirm that the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust do not use Entonox and therefore, are unable to provide this information.

2. Have you ever suspended the use of Entonox or any other inhaled as an inhalation analgesic for women in labour in either hospital setting or at home births? If so, please state how many times per year its use has been suspended since the first suspension was recorded.

N/A

3. On average, how long has the use of Entonox been suspended for?

N/A

4. Have you currently suspended or removed Entonox as an inhalation analgesic for women in Labour in either hospital setting or at home births, or are you planning to in the future?

N/A

5. Do you have ventilation/scavenger units to remove Entonox in your maternity unit? If yes, how old are the ventilation/scavenger systems on the maternity wards and when they last updated/repared?

N/A

6. On average, how much exposure do maternity staff have to Entonox in a week and how often do you monitor the levels?

N/A

7. Have you had any staff who have been exposed to Entonox in excess of the Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL) of

100ppm (eight-hour time weighted average) under COSHH Regulations 2002, and what were the levels of exposure?

N/A

8. Is there currently any legal action involving your staff in relation to this?

N/A

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

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Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 5804 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information