

Ref: FOI/2024/10337

Date Received: 26th November 2024

Response Due: 24th December 2024

Date: 23rd December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 26th November 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

1. How many buildings / blocks are you responsible for owning / managing from a maintenance perspective? (Include any under PFI contracts)

WWL directly manages 152 buildings.

2. How many of these buildings / blocks contain asbestos?

139 of these buildings contain asbestos / ACM's as any building pre-dating 2000 will have some form of asbestos / ACM present.

3. How many Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) do you have? *If you are uncertain, please provide an estimate.*

This information is not centrally recorded. The Trust would be required to manually count every piece of "individual" Asbestos across the entire Trust in order to answer this question.

4. What format of asbestos register do you have? (e.g. paper based, Excel, internal database, externally digital, asbestos consultant system, survey reports etc.)

An external digital database - Consultants Proprietary System. The Trust has log on access to this 24/7.

5. Does your Trust have a dedicated person(s) to manage asbestos? If so how many roles.

The Trust has an Asbestos Responsible Person and Deputy Asbestos Responsible Person, as well as our Estates Managers who receive awareness training. Our trade staff also receive awareness training and UKATA training.

- 6. What is the job title of the person (or persons) who are responsible for managing asbestos day to day (not the Dutyholder)?**
Estates Managers manage Asbestos on a day-to-day basis, with the support of the ARP / DRP and an external Asbestos consultant.
- 7. Does this person / role solely cover asbestos or do they have other responsibilities?**
Asbestos is one of their roles.
- 8. What asbestos / health & safety qualifications do those persons involved in the management of asbestos hold? (e.g. Asbestos Awareness, NEBOSH, CoCA, P401, P402, P403, P404, P405, P406, P407, S301, W504 etc.)**
BOHS – P405 and regular refresher courses.
- 9. Does your Trust have external support for asbestos management? (Not including undertaking removal/ abatement, surveys, sampling, air monitoring, training etc.)**
Yes.
- 10. Does your Trust employ an Independent Assessor / Authorised Person / Authorising Engineer for asbestos?**
Yes. The Trust employs an Independent Assessor to undertake Management Surveys, Refurbishment and Demolition Surveys, Asbestos Sampling and Asbestos Consultancy Service.
- 11. Does your Trust undertake external audits of asbestos management?**
Yes, via Asbestos Consultant.
- 12. Do you undertake any of the following asbestos activities in-house – sampling, re-inspections, removal / abatement, training?**
No, however some Asbestos Essentials minor works tasks are undertaken by suitably trained directly employed trade staff.
- 13. Do you employ asbestos consultants?**
Yes.
- 14. Do you require asbestos consultants to be UKAS accredited?**
Yes.
- 15. If using consultants, what services do you get them to undertake? (e.g. management / refurbishment / demolition surveys, air monitoring & 4SC, specification writing, training etc.)**
All of the listed services: management, refurbishment, demolition surveys, air monitoring, and 4 stage clearance, specification writing and training.
- 16. If using consultants, how do you procure their services? (e.g. per job, approved list, national framework, internal framework, annual contract etc.)**
Multiyear contract via NHS Framework.
- 17. Within the last 3 years have you had issues with the standard or work undertaken by asbestos consultants?**
No.
- 18. Do you employ Licensed Asbestos Removal Contractors (LARCs)?**
Yes.

19. Do you employ Non-Licensed Asbestos Contractors?

No, we would employ LARCs for Asbestos Removal works. However, some Asbestos Essentials minor works tasks are undertaken by suitably trained, directly employed, trade staff.

20. If using contractors, how do you procure their services? (e.g. per job, approved list, national framework, internal framework, annual contract etc.)

Per job.

21. Within the last 3 years have you had issues with the standard or work undertaken by asbestos removal contractors?

No.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner
Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

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: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111