

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Tuesday 24th September 2024. I am pleased to confirm the following.

I would like to request the amount of buildings used by the trust which still contain asbestos as of the most recent figures available in 2024. I would also like to know how this number compares with the equivalent figure at the same time in each of three previous calendar years (2023, 2022 and 2021).

We have 24 blocks that were built before 2000 and all must be assumed to contain asbestos to varying degrees. All 24 are covered within our Asbestos Management Surveys. This has remained static since 2021.

Further, I would like for the amount of repairs that have been done to buildings used by the trust due to issues caused by asbestos in 2024, 2023, 2022

Removal projects of various size undertaken under permit:

2021 - 2 Removal projects
2022 - 2 Removal projects
2023 - 4 Removal projects
2024 - 7 Removal projects

2021 and the total cost of those repairs in each year.

Asbestos removal projects are not separately accounted for and therefore no reliable attributable costs can be obtained, these works are either undertaken as part of capital projects or as remedial works following asbestos surveys and no separate cost records have been captured specific to asbestos. The time it would take to look back through historical invoices and quotations to identify the true costs of the asbestos works is unfortunately beyond our cost limit. Therefore, under section 12 of the FOI Act we are refusing to respond to this question under section 12 because compliance would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

To help provide what we reasonably can, asbestos repairs or removals can cost anywhere from £3k to £170k and there are only two significant projects over the last four years, all others would have been less than £20k with most being around £3-5k:

FY23/24 £85k Removal of Asbestos from Rose Cottage
FY21 £170k Removal of Asbestos containing ceiling and installation of new ceiling, lighting, etc in Ward 14 (noting that the asbestos removal was £94k and the rest was reinstatement works)

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If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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