

Ref. No: 498
From: Commercial
Date: 22/03/23
Subject: nitrous oxide monitoring

REQUEST & RESPONSE

I am requesting the following information about Nitrous Oxide monitoring:

- 1. Have you carried out Nitrous Oxide / Entonox personal sampling in your Trust? If so, which departments have you carried out personal sampling in?**

The Trust carried out Nitrous Oxide / Entonox personal sampling in 2019, 2021 and 2022. These were carried out at Whiston Maternity Department.

- 2. Did you find high results in any staff members? If yes:**

- a. How many staff members were affected?**

<5*

- b. What was the highest result you found?**

239 ppm (8 hr TWA).

- c. Were these staff members informed?**

Yes.

- d. What action was taken? (e.g. have you installed mobile destruction units)**

Quotations for low level scavengers were obtained but not purchased. The maternity area air changes were improved in line with the personal sampling report recommendations.

- 3. Have you suspended the use of Entonox at your Trust?**

No.

*Section 40: Personal Information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of five or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances, Sections 40(2) and 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply.

In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.