

FOI 072/2025 Response

Dear Information Officer,

I would like to submit a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) regarding health concerns linked to chemical flame retardants (CfRs), including those classified as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), used in furniture within your hospital facilities. Please provide the relevant information for the period between 1 January 2022 until the date this request is processed.

Please could you provide the following:

- 1. The total number of reported incidents, complaints, or logged concerns received by your Trust in which patient health issues (e.g. skin irritation, respiratory symptoms, allergic reactions) were linked to chemical flame retardants (CfRs) present in hospital furniture (such as mattress covers, beds, chairs, cushions, or other furnishings) used in your facilities.**

There are no incidents recorded on the Trust Incident Reporting System reporting patient health issues related to chemical flame retardants (CfRs) between January 2022 – April 2025.

- 2. Details of any correspondence (internal or external), meeting minutes, or formal complaints that reference concerns about the health impacts of chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in furniture within your facility.**

We do not any correspondence (internal or external), meeting minutes, or formal complaints about the health impacts of chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in furniture within BSMHFT.

- 3. Information on whether your Trust has conducted or commissioned any safety reviews, risk assessments, or evaluations regarding the use of chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in hospital furniture.**

This is not a risk that has been raised specifically for the Trust, therefore no special reviews or investigations have been commissioned.

Please note that fire risk assessments are completed for each ward/ building and if there are concerns about the safety of furniture, these are noted as points for action on the risk assessments.

- 4. Details of any changes made to procurement policy, furniture specifications, or supplier contracts made in response to concerns about chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in furniture.**

There have been no changes made to procurement policy, furniture specifications, or supplier contracts made in response to concerns about chemical flame retardants (CfRs) in furniture.