



10 July 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1247

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Formaldehyde Levels**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 25 June 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Surgery, Elective, Maternity & Paediatric Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

- Q1. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 0ppm but less than or equal to 0.3ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q2. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 0.3ppm but less than or equal to 0.4ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q3. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 0.4ppm but less than or equal to 0.5ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q4. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 0.5ppm but less than or equal to 0.6ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q5. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 0.6ppm but less than or equal to 0.7ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q6. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 0.7ppm but less than or equal to 0.8ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q7. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 0.8ppm but less than or equal to 0.9ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q8. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 0.9ppm but less than or equal to 1ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q9. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 1ppm but less than or equal to 1.5ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q10. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that are greater than 1.5ppm but less than or equal to 2ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**

- Q11. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that exceed 2ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?**
- Q12. How often and/or under what circumstances are formaldehyde levels measured in your histopathology department?**
- Q13. Exactly how many times have formaldehyde levels been measured in your histopathology department over the last 12 months?**
- Q14. In order for me to gauge the approximate size of the histopathology dept, can you advise the approximate number of cases that pass through the histopathology dept annually?**
- A. In response to questions 1 to 14, the Trust does not have a Histopathology Department and therefore are unable to respond to the above questions.