

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/317

Tyntyla Hospital

Information Requested:

We write to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act to access all asbestos related documentation that you hold in relation to Tyntyla Hospital.

Our request includes but is not limited to the following information:

1. Any and all asbestos surveys carried out or held in relation to the hospital at any time;
2. Any and all information relating to asbestos following any demolition or work on the premises;
3. Any and all memoranda in relation to levels of asbestos fibres at the hospital;
4. Any and all reports both internally and externally provided in relation to the monitoring of asbestos fibre levels for as long as you have records for at the hospital;
5. Any and all minutes of health and safety committee meetings in relation to asbestos exposure for as long as you have records for at the hospital;
6. Any and all communications with the Health and Safety Executive in relation to levels of asbestos fibres for as long as you have records for at the hospital; and
7. Any and all documentation relating to any risk assessments carried out in relation to the risks from dust/fibres from asbestos sheets, asbestos wool, asbestos wire, asbestos cord, asbestos rope, raw asbestos and asbestos roofing sheets at the hospital, to include details of any health and safety measures employed or considered in relation to the handling, cutting/sawing, drilling and fitting of the asbestos material.

Response Details:

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004. The UHB has therefore relied upon the section 12 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000) ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') and is refusing your request for the following reasons.

It should first be noted that multiple requests within a single item of correspondence are considered separate requests for the purposes of section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000, as confirmed in *Fitzsimmons v Information Commissioner* [2008] UKIT EA/2007/0124.

When a public authority is estimating whether the appropriate limit is likely to be exceeded for the purposes of regulation 5 of the Fees Regulations as prescribed by section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000, it can include the costs of complying with two or more requests if these are:

- made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign; and
- received by the public authority within any period of 60 working days.

Since all of these requests were sent by the same individual and received on 20 May 2024, the UHB believes these conditions to be satisfied.

Regulation 5(2) of the Fees Regulations equally requires that aggregated requests relate 'to any extent' to the same or similar information. This test is likely to be met where requests possess an overarching theme or have a common thread running between them with respect to the nature of the information sought. And since each of the requests relates to asbestos-related documentation for Tyntyla Hospital, the UHB considers the requirement of similar information sought to be met due to the common themes present.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to the aggregated requests would exceed the time limit as set within the Fees Regulations to respond to a request made under the FOIA 2000. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the Fees Regulations for this amount of work is £450 for the UHB. The Fees Regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

In light of the above considerations, the UHB is refusing your requests for information in accordance with section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000.