

Request Title: Asbestos Survey - Rusholme Health Centre

FOI Reference: PSC-83328-K9C3

Date of Disclosure: 22/03/2022

Date Range: 2022

FOI Request:

“Please send the following documents on the [Rusholme] Health Centre...:

- *Asbestos register*
- *Asbestos survey”*

Our Response:

Under section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act, we confirm that we hold the information requested and our response is as follows.

NHS Property Services exists to help the NHS get the most from its estate and ensure that it is consistently fit for purpose so that healthcare professionals can deliver excellent patient care. With this in mind, we have provided the most current asbestos survey, including the register, for Rusholme Health Centre. (**Attachment 1**)

Please be aware that redactions have been made, on the grounds of either:

- Redacting floorplan information in accordance with section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is a qualified exemption and requires a Public Interest Test be carried out.

Public Interest Test

Section 38 states that:

(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to-

- (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or
- (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, have either of the effects mentioned in subsection (1).

We believe that disclosure regarding detailed floorplans at our properties may have the potential to endanger the safety of individuals who frequent the site or make sites

vulnerable to security threats. Our examination of factors in favour of release of the information or disclosure of the information is outlined below.

Factors in favour of release:

- promoting accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them;
- promoting accountability and transparency in the spending of public money;
- allowing individuals, companies and other bodies to understand decisions made by public authorities which affect their lives;
- bringing to light information affecting public health and safety.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- speculative information could mislead the general public and cause them to fail to act or act against their own interests. Confirmation or denial of floorplans would risk the safety of employees or security personnel if disclosure of these details were publicised;
- individuals may interpret security information in order to take advantage of vulnerabilities of healthcare centres, causing harm to themselves or others;
- information that would undermine the functioning of a system established to protect public health or safety, in this instance, the detailed floorplans of a healthcare facility;
- information that would provide intelligence allowing known individuals to be targeted, such as security personnel who are already more at risk in their roles, or patients and staff attending the healthcare facility; or
- information regarding the site layout and facilities provided in the floorplan may lead to a high risk of the site being sabotaged or vandalised.

In considering both the factors in favour of release and factors in favour of withholding, it is clear that the factors in favour of withholding outweigh any benefits to disclosure. The safety of our staff, contractors and patients is paramount to our decision making, and disclosure of security information may endanger lives.