

Request Title: Asbestos in Leasehold and Freehold Properties**FOI Reference: PSC-95971-G3H6****Date of Disclosure: 11/08/2022****Date Range: pre-2000****FOI Request:**

I am reporting on the presence of asbestos in public buildings in the UK and how duty-holders are managing the risk. Please treat this as a request under the Environmental Information Regulations.

As part of your 'duty of care' NHS Property Services (NHSPS) is required to undertake Asbestos Management Surveys of freehold (solely owned) properties to identify any ACMs that are readily accessible in the building.

You previously responded to my information/EIR request that you had completed Phase One of the National Asbestos Management Survey Project and you supplied me with the results for freehold properties, which is around 10% of the NHS estate.

1. I am now asking that you provide any similar information you hold about leasehold properties, where the duty to manage has been passed to you in contract. Please supply any details about how many leasehold properties you manage, constructed before the year 2000, in the NHSPS Property Portfolio and how many of those buildings are deemed to contain one Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) or more.

Additionally, I was informed that 1230 of the freehold properties have had a new survey under this present project so far and that 1113 were found to contain at least one ACM.

2. Please could you tell me what percentage of the 1113 that contained ACMs were surveyed as the asbestos being damaged and to what extent?"

Our Response:

1. NHSPS has a facilities Management interest in 567 Leasehold Properties. Of those properties, 268 sites were constructed before the year 2000 and as such the Control of Asbestos regulations apply. These are covered by the requirements and considerations of our Asbestos Management Plan. Of the 268 sites, 113 sites contain 1 or more ACMs. These sites are routinely reinspected under the approved non-connected supplier reinspection check programme. Any ACMs identified in during a reinspection check to have deteriorated in condition or surface treatment will be assessed and a remedial action and SLA (Service Level Agreement) will be set accordingly. The approved non-connected suppliers conducting this work are all UKAS Accredited Consultancies that have passed the Organisation's pre-qualification quality checks.

Phase 2 of the Asbestos Management survey project is now underway we are undertaking a review of all 268 sites for which we have duty holder responsibility. This may result in the decision to undertake a full new management survey of all or part of the property.

2. Of the sites surveyed so far in phase 1 of the project – a total of 29.1% of the sites had some form of remedial action identified. These remedial actions are occurrences where the location, condition, and/or surface treatment of the ACM was considered in requirement of improvement. As detailed in the previous response, these remedial actions were prioritised by the assessment of the risk posed. The priority breakdown across the 29.1% of sites that had remedial actions was 12.4% high priority, 15.6% medium priority, 1.1% low priority.