

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- Have you carried out nitrous oxide/Entonox personal sampling in your trust? – **Yes**
 - If so, which departments have you carried out personal sampling in? – **Maternity**
 - Did you find high results in any staff members? – who will know this/have a copy of the results? **See below**

If yes:

- How many staff members were affected?

Maternity = Whilst initial testing in 2021 indicated that some staff members may have been exposed to levels of nitrous oxide exposure that exceeded the maximum time weighted average permissible, a review of the sampling methodology indicated that some of the results may have been erroneous. After repeating the sampling, subsequent samples indicated satisfactory results at both the Doncaster and Bassetlaw sites. In the follow up testing at Bassetlaw, all but one member of staff were found to have experienced exposure limits below the maximum permissible exposure limit. In the most recent samples at this site (conducted (2023) there were no unsatisfactory results.

- - What was the highest result you found? **Bassetlaw Maternity = In the follow up sampling in 2021 one staff member was found to have had an exposure level of 123 ppm. This was somewhat of an anomaly though, as the next highest exposure level was 50 ppm, and the next highest after that was 28 ppm. In the most recent sampling, however, the highest result was 3.12 ppm**
 - Were these staff members informed? **yes they were and all pregnant midwives were moved to other departments. There were measure put in place like allowing rooms to be aired between use, and ensuring that door were kept open to assist ventilation.**
 - What action was taken? (e.g. have you installed mobile destruction units?) – **Maternity = Whilst follow up sampling from 2021 indicated that exposure limits were largely within acceptable tolerances, the Trust has invested in new ventilation systems throughout maternity services at both the Bassetlaw and Doncaster site to improve environmental conditions and enhance control measures against infection and exposure to nitrous oxide. This work was completed in 2022 at Bassetlaw and 2023 at Doncaster.**
- Have you suspended the use of Entonox at your trust? **No**

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