

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – FORMALDEHYDE LEVELS**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to formaldehyde levels in NHS Lothian.

### **Question:**

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. 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?
6. 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?
7. 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?

8. 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?

9. 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?

10. In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have formaldehyde levels been recorded that exceed 2ppm in the Trust's Histopathology Department?

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

| <b>Formaldehyde levels, NHS Lothian, 2024-25</b> |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Formaldehyde level</b>                        | <b>Number of instances</b> |
| > 0.3 - ≤ 0.4 ppm                                | 3                          |
| 0.4 - 0.5 ppm                                    | 4                          |
| 0.5 - 0.6 ppm                                    | 1                          |
| 0.6 - 0.7 ppm                                    | 1                          |
| 0.7 - 0.8 ppm                                    | 1                          |
| 0.8 - 0.9 ppm                                    | 1                          |
| 0.9 - 1.0 ppm                                    | 1                          |
| 1 - 1.5 ppm                                      | 5                          |
| 1.5 - 2 ppm                                      | 2                          |
| > 2 ppm  | 0                          |

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive