

Fire Damper Maintenance Regime

Reference Number: RDF1762-23

Date of Response: 18/09/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

I am writing to formally request information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am seeking details related to the fire damper maintenance regime within the sites covered under the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, specifically pertaining to the current contractor, number of dampers, annual cost, responsible person for the contract, and the contract renewal date for each site within the trust.

Kindly provide the following information:

1. Details of the Current Fire Damper Maintenance Regime:

- a. The established fire damper maintenance schedule or plan.*

Answer: Inspected annually.

- b. Frequency of inspections and maintenance activities conducted on fire dampers within Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust premises.*

Answer: Annually.

2. Current Contractor Information:

- a. The name of the contractor responsible for fire damper maintenance within Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust.*

- b. Contact details of the contractor, including address, phone number, and email.*

Answer: Undertaken in-house for Royal Devon's Eastern Services.

For Royal Devon's Northern Services the Trust holds this information however this information is commercially sensitive and its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

In applying the exemption under Section 43(2) the Freedom of Information Act the Trust has balanced the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The Trust has considered all the relevant factors in the public interest test and concluded that the benefit to the public in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in releasing the information requested as a result of the prejudices and losses that would

potentially affect the Trust and patients. As such this information is being withheld under Section 43 (2).

3. Number of Dampers:

- a. The total number of fire dampers present across each of the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust facilities.*

Answer: 439 in North Devon District Hospital. 2,750 in Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

4. The annual costs associated with the fire damper maintenance contract.

Answer: Not applicable.

5. Responsible Person for the Contract:

- a. The name and contact information (including email and phone number) of the individual responsible for overseeing the fire damper maintenance contract across the trust.*

Answer: The Deputy Director of Estates and Facilities is Paul Honey, contactable via our main hospitals 01392 411611 (Eastern services) and 01271 322577 (Northern services) or via the Trust 'Contact Us' link on royaldevon.nhs.uk

6. Contract Renewal Date:

- a. The date on which the current fire damper maintenance contract is due for renewal.*

Answer: Royal Devon's Northern Services: 1st August 2023. Royal Devon's Eastern Services not applicable.