

Environmental Information Regulations Request 238-23

Request

Following a Safety Action notice sent to Boards about Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) from NHS Scotland on 22nd February 2023, please tell me:

1. How many checks and surveys of hospitals and other estates run by the Board have been carried out since the NHS Scotland notice was sent?
2. How many instances of RAAC have been found in hospitals or other estates managed by the Board.
3. How many buildings still need to be checked for RAAC?
4. What action the Board is taking to remove any RAAC identified and how long does it estimate that any action will take?

Response

1. NHS Borders have not yet carried out any physical checks and surveys since the NHS Scotland notice was sent. An internal exercise was undertaken by estates staff to identify areas that may contain RAAC (based on information available and local site knowledge).
2. As the physical checks have not yet been carried out, there have not been any instances of RAAC found in hospitals and other estates managed by NHS Borders.
3. NHS Assure are leading a national survey programme which NHS Borders are part of: Guidance/parameters around affected buildings have been issued and the Estates Department will reply accordingly, thus identifying the buildings which will require further checks, via the survey partner.
4. NHS Borders do not yet have a timetable in place for any required works as this is not possible until the information is gathered (see question 3).

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **238-23** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.

