

Environmental Information Regulations Request 692-23

Request

1. Where (if anywhere) has RAAC been identified in the Board?
2. Has any assessment been made of RAAC structural strength? Please share these with us.
3. Have any risks assessments been completed in line with Regulation 3 of The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999? Please share these with us.
4. Who is the key officer or expert in the Board with whom we can further liaise directly about safety of the estate?
5. What mitigations have been made and proposed? Please share with us a timescale of completed and planned works.
6. What are the plans for evacuation? What would the trigger point for evacuation be? How would doctors will be affected under these plans?
7. Are there, or may there be, circumstances of danger which may be reasonably believed to be serious and imminent?

Response

Under Section 15, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, please note, NHS Borders has created a website for RAAC. This can be found at the link below:

[https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-\(raac\)/](https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-(raac)/)

1. RAAC has been confirmed in the following NHS Borders buildings:
 - Knoll Hospital
 - Knoll Health Centre
 - Jedburgh Health Centre
 - Kelso Hospital
2. In line with the National Survey Programme (NHS Assure) non-intrusive surveys have been undertaken by WSP – NHS Borders are awaiting the formal report but early email notification from the specialist surveyors informed us that “At the sites where RAAC was observed, none of these were critical”. It is anticipated that within three weeks NHS Borders will receive a formal/written report containing all specifics and details.
3. In line with Regulation 3 of The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, a risk assessment has been completed. Please see attached RAAC Risk Assessment 4674 document.



4. The key staff members are:
 - Gavin McLaren Head of Estates
 - Daniel Kelly Estates Manager, Buildings
 - Brad Herbert Estates Programme Manager
5. Early mitigation documentation has only just been received (post surveys) by NHS Borders. The Estates Team (including above) are reviewing the document and implementing actions where required. At this stage, Timescales are yet to be confirmed, and therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
6. Once in receipt of the written reports, any appropriate evacuation plans required would be put into place, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. However, please note there is no evidence that any of this concrete is in poor condition resulting in an immediate risk. In addition, the Resilience Team, and Service Leads (Primary Care) would also implement their business continuity plans, if required.
7. Although RAAC has been found present in four locations, there is **no evidence** that any of this concrete is in poor condition resulting in an immediate/critical risk.

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, 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 **692-23** 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.