Dear [Name]

I am writing to respond to your request [redacted] February 2016. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust can confirm that it holds the data that you requested.

1. How many reported incidents involving formaldehyde and/or Formalin have occurred in the last 3 years at your trust? Please provide numbers of staff and patients involved in such incidents

None

2. How many reported illnesses or injury due to formaldehyde and/or formalin has your trust had?

Pathology and Laboratories have had no confirmed illnesses or injury due to formaldehyde. There has been three staff members with chemical sensitivity (chemical has not been confirmed). There has been 3 incidents involving eye splashes with formalin, all have been associated with specimen dissection, in 2 of the 3 instances the member of staff was not wearing the supplied safety glasses.

3. Has your trust ever been subject to legal proceedings due to exposure to formaldehyde and and/or formalin? Please supply numbers of incidents

Pathology and Laboratories are not aware of any legal proceedings.

4. Does your trust have a policy or procedure in place to reduce exposure to formaldehyde and/or formalin in the treatment room setting whilst harvesting biopsy samples? If so please supply

Pathology and Laboratories are not aware of a Trust policy however individual areas will have their own operating procedures and the theatres all have fume cupboards for dispensing formal saline (see attached standard operating procedures).

5. Does your trust have a policy to purchase the safest practicable solution to reduce harmful exposure to Formaldehyde and/or formalin? If so please supply details

There is no Trust policy for use of formaldehyde. Pathology supply commercially produced 10L containers of formal saline (moving to neutral buffered formalin) to theatres who dispense it in a fume cupboard. Small pre-filled pots are bought by individual departments from NHS supply. Pathology will advise on Health and Safety in places like endoscopy.

Please note that on 1 November 2011 the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust (ORH) merged with the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust (NOC) to form the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (OUH). Our response reflects these changes. Therefore, we consider that Oxford University Hospitals Trust has released to you all of the information that it holds in relation to your request.
Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with the service or response to your request you can ask for an internal review by writing to:

Director of Assurance, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 Website: www.ico.gov.uk

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