

Reference:	FOI.17990.25
Subject:	Asbestos
Date of Request:	4 August 2025

Requested:

1. I would like to know why asbestos has been allowed to remain in place as all areas were meant to be assessed for dangerous fibers?
2. Is asbestos being left unchecked in GGH, and since it has been listed as a major cost, does this indicate it is the hazardous crocidolite type?
3. Have staff working in that area been advised and referred to Occupational Health for a formal assessment?
4. Was the waste removed by an approved contractor?
5. Please confirm who the accountable officer is for this work?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that as part of its asbestos management programme, the Pharmacy staff room was subject to Type 2 surveying in February/March 2002, management surveying in March/April 2012 and targeted refurbishment and demolition asbestos surveying in June 2022.

As a result of these surveys, no Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACMs) were identified in this room. However, the spandrel panels to the external façade curtain-wall system of Block 6 are included within the hospital's asbestos register, due to the possibility of there being hidden asbestos components within this type of curtain wall construction. Although, none has been found within the north-facing first floor spandrel panels to date.

Any ACMs, if present, would be enclosed within the wall construction and would not normally affect the room. As a precaution during the refurbishment of the Pharmacy staff room, the timber worktop and sink unit were removed by a licensed asbestos removal contractor, employed by the Principal Contractor during the recent refurbishment work. The UHB can confirm that no known ACMs remain within the room.

2. The UHB confirms that asbestos is not being left unchecked. All known asbestos-containing materials within GGH and across the UHB are subject to periodic re-inspection and are managed in compliance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR) 2012, Health and Safety Executive (HSE) approved code of practice and guidance, and the UHB's Asbestos Policy.

The UHB's Asbestos Policy is available on the UHB's website. A link has been provided below, which will take you directly to the Policies and Written Control Documents webpage:

[Policies and written control documents - Hywel Dda University Health Board](#)

Whilst it is acknowledged that asbestos removal work is relatively costly, higher-risk friable ACMs, or other ACMs at greater risk of being disturbed during normal occupancy or by planned building work, are removed in accordance with CAR 2012 where reasonably practicable. Where

removal is not practicable, suitable and sufficient control measures are implemented to manage the ACMs in situ in a safe manner, such as encapsulation, access restrictions/barriers, periodic air monitoring etc. Bonded ACMs and other ACMs at low risk of being disturbed are left in situ and subject to periodic re-inspection, unless found to be deteriorating or scheduled for replacement, in which case they are considered for removal.

Whilst most remaining ACMs do not contain crocidolite asbestos fibres, some do, as either the sole asbestos component within the material or with other asbestos fibre types. Where confirmation by sample analysis is impractical and no other relevant data exists, materials and building elements suspected of containing asbestos are presumed to contain crocidolite until proven otherwise in accordance with HSE guidance.

3. The UHB confirms that no staff working in the area have been advised and referred to Occupational Health for a formal assessment. There has been no known exposure to airborne asbestos fibres resulting from the recent refurbishment work within the Pharmacy staff room.
4. The UHB confirms that building waste materials resulting from the recent refurbishment work were removed from site by the Principal Contractor for appropriate disposal. Waste materials associated with the precautionary work conducted by the licensed asbestos removal contractor were removed from site for appropriate disposal.
5. The UHB can confirm that the Estates Department was overseeing the works on the Pharmacy project, with Andrew Carruthers, Chief Operating Officer, holding overall Executive responsibility at the time.