

Ref no: 090060617
From: Commercial
Date: 06/06/17
Subject: PFI PPP Safety Audit

REQUEST

This request for information is an attempt to seek reassurance about the safety of public buildings in the light of the findings revealed in the Inquiry commissioned following the collapse of a school building wall in Edinburgh and subsequent closure of 17 schools.

Please answer the following for each PFI/PPP schemes in your health trust treating each scheme as a separate request.

Please provide all documents showing how your organisation has responded to the findings contained in the report on Edinburgh Schools Construction by John Cole: including, but not limited to memos, emails, minutes, reports.

I would like to understand the expertise and resource committed by your organisation to the management and oversight of PFI schemes from procurement through to ongoing contract operation. Please provide documents relating to the PFI Team(s) allocated to each project its makeup and structure of the team during each project phase. This may comprise terms of reference, organisation chart, post titles and role profiles.

Provide the deed of appointment for the Independent Certifier and any other documents setting out the scope of that role. Please confirm the level of indemnity insurance and liability period.

Please confirm whether your organisation employed a member of the Institute of Clerk of Works or an inspector of similar standing and assigned them to each construction site. If someone in this role was employed please confirm their level of qualification, the salary associated with this role and how much time was allocated to per project/site.

Please provide a list of all enforcement or improvement notices served; investigations carried out and reports commissioned into fire safety (include dates and specify who commissioned or issued these) Please provide copies of all items listed.

Provide details of all attempts to make deductions relating to structural defects for each project. Confirm the amount, what it was for, and when the deduction was made.⁵

RESPONSE

The Trust has one PFI scheme for the provision of its hospital buildings and Estates and Facilities Services.

In response to the findings of the Edinburgh Schools Construction report by John Cole of February 2017, NewHospitals, the Trust's PFI partner and Vinci Facilities, the estates provider conducted a desk top survey in conjunction with Thomason's. This included an assessment of the construction detail and specifications at both Whiston and St Helens hospitals to identify any risks. The report highlighted the construction methodology was different to that of Edinburgh Schools and determined that there was no risk to the buildings. In order to provide memos, emails and reports the Trust would need to conduct a manual search of the PFI project archives - Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in answering the remainder of your questions. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing this portion of your request further.

The Trust implemented and has maintained a team of dedicated specialists from the initial stages of the hospital rebuild business case submission through procurement, construction, commissioning and contract management phases of the PFI scheme.

During the construction phase this team reported into the Trust's Executive management structure with a governance system in place to ensure the project implementation group had oversight of the project and received assurance regarding project compliance. The contract management of the PFI scheme in its steady state phase continues to report into the executive team through the Director of Estates and Facilities Management.

Mouchelles are the jointly appointed independent tester and certifier for the Trust and NewHospitals.

The Trust employed mechanical, electrical and structural engineers to provide expert advice during the design construction and commissioning phases of the PFI scheme. Salaries were appropriately banded in line with NHS pay rates.

The Trust has not served any enforcement or improvement notices with regards to fire safety.

No deductions have been made through the PFI payment mechanism in relation to structural defects.