

Request No: ELIR00403	Received: 20.03.24	Resolved: 05.04.24
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Subject: Turkish baths plunge pool -FOI request

Requested information:

I would like to obtain information on the technical issue due to which the Turkish Baths plunge pool has been closed for several weeks.

1. Could you please provide information on what the nature of the issue is and what actions have been taken by management to resolve the issue.
2. Why is the issue not being fixed in a timely manner?
3. I'd also be grateful if you could provide information on any decision making over what information to disclose to the public as no details of the issue nor further updates on how and when it is planned to be resolved have been provided for a significant period of time.

Format of the requested information: electronic via email.

Response

Our Response

The request has been processed and considered under the terms of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs) and the information is provided below. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused due to the closure of our plunge pool, located within the Turkish Baths at Portobello Swim Centre.

1. Could you please provide information on what the nature of the issue is and what actions have been taken by management to resolve the issue.

We were conducting surveys as part of a wider maintenance programme and identified an issue with the plunge pool. Our team has been diligently working with contractors to address the issue. During these investigations, traces of asbestos were discovered in the undercroft (the basement area underneath the pool which houses the plunge pool controls).



2. Why is the issue not being fixed in a timely manner?

We have now appointed a specialised contractor who will be undertaking the maintenance needed to reopen the plunge pool. Unfortunately, this could take several months. We are collaborating closely with the contractors to establish clear timelines and we will let our customers know as soon as we have more information.

3. I'd also be grateful if you could provide information on any decision making over what information to disclose to the public as no details of the issue nor further updates on how and when it is planned to be resolved have been provided for a significant period of time.

We want to ensure we gather all of the facts and communicate accurately. We can only do this when we know the extent of the issue and what a solution looks like – this has taken time to engage with contractors, procure services and gather the information we need in order to make a decision about what needs done to rectify.

We understand how much our customers value the plunge pool. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by its temporary closure and assure you that we are committed to reopening it as soon as possible.

Please note that this response constitutes full release under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs).