# Scottish hospitals report nearly 1,200 sewage leaks in five years amid maintenance concerns



A recent investigation has revealed that Scottish hospitals have experienced nearly 1,200 sewage leaks over the past five years, raising significant concerns regarding the maintenance and safety of healthcare facilities in the region. The figures, uncovered by the Scottish Liberal Democrats, indicate that the problem is widespread, affecting multiple health boards across Scotland.

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde has been identified as the health board with the highest number of sewage incidents, recording 761 leaks. NHS Lanarkshire follows closely, with 342 incidents documented. The data was made available through a freedom of information request and highlights the severity of the issue, particularly in hospitals such as Glasgow Royal Infirmary, which alone reported 308 leaks, and Queen Elizabeth University Hospital with 171 leaks. Other health boards affected include Ayrshire & Arran, Fife, Forth Valley, Grampian, Highland, and Lothian.

Scottish Liberal Democrats leader Alex Cole-Hamilton expressed concern about the situation, stating, “Healthcare workers have enough on their plate without dealing with smelly sewage spills in their workplace.” He highlighted the pressing need for health boards to provide assurances that these leaks have been adequately addressed to prevent recurrence, particularly when budgets are constrained.

Specific instances of sewage problems have surfaced recently, including leaks at the Raigmore A&E in the Highlands. Reports detail incidents where sewage appeared in a "contamination area" and an overflowing doctor’s toilet, underscoring the immediate need for improvements in hospital infrastructure and hygiene.

The situation raises broader questions about the prioritisation of funding and resources within the NHS, with Cole-Hamilton emphasising that the Scottish Liberal Democrats are committed to investing in healthcare facilities. He stated that ensuring these facilities are “fit for purpose” is crucial to avoid unwanted surprises for both patients and healthcare staff.

As these leaks continue to be a matter of concern, the discussion around the adequacy of maintenance in Scottish healthcare facilities remains critical, particularly in light of ongoing budget constraints faced by the NHS.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.scotsman.com/health/200-sewage-leaks-recorded-in-scottish-hospitals-in-five-years-4100369> - This article reports that nearly 200 sewage-related incidents have occurred in Scottish hospitals since 2019, with NHS Lanarkshire recording 137 incidents, corroborating the claim of widespread sewage leaks affecting multiple health boards across Scotland.
2. <https://glasgowstandard.com/2023/04/13/hundreds-of-sewage-leaks-across-nhs-boards-revealed-in-new-study/> - This study reveals that over half of the 196 sewage-related accidents recorded since 2019 took place at the University Hospital Monklands in Airdrie, North Lanarkshire, highlighting the severity of the issue in specific hospitals.
3. <https://www.fifetoday.co.uk/health/16-sewage-leaks-at-nhs-fife-hospitals-according-to-new-figures-4109895> - This article details that NHS Fife hospitals have reported at least 16 sewage leaks since 2019, indicating that other health boards, such as Fife, are also affected by the issue.
4. <https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/exclusive-nhs-grampian-s-shameful-failure-to-tell-thousan-359817/> - This report discusses a sewage leak at Dr Gray’s Hospital in Elgin, NHS Grampian, which contaminated thousands of medical records, underscoring the impact of sewage issues on hospital infrastructure and patient data.
5. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/stench-sewage-remained-kids-cancer-30234882> - This article describes ongoing sewage-like odors in a children's cancer ward at Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Children, even after refurbishment, highlighting the persistent nature of sewage-related problems in healthcare facilities.
6. <https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/scottish-news/23589380.glasgow-hospital-overwhelmed-by-sewage-stench-refurb/> - This report details how the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow experienced overwhelming sewage stench after a multimillion-pound refurbishment, indicating that sewage issues continue to affect hospital environments.
7. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scottish-hospitals-face-nearly-1200-35172151> - Please view link - unable to able to access data