

Information Governance

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17 November 2017
Reference no. 17180239

Dear

Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email of 23 October, making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

Request:

- How many allegations of a) sexual assault and b) sexual harassment has your trust received against staff members in each of the past four years?
- In how many of the cases were any of the alleged victims aged 18 or under at the time of the alleged offence?
- In how many of the cases were any of the alleged victims current or former patients?
- For each case, did it lead to i) internal disciplinary proceedings, ii) external disciplinary proceedings (i.e. through a regulator) and/or iii) a financial settlement.
- For each case, please provide a broad description of the allegations involved, including the number of alleged victims / alleged perpetrators; their age (within a 10-year band); the date of the alleged offence and whether the alleged perpetrator occupied a managerial position.
- For each case, please list the gender of the alleged perpetrator and the alleged victim. Alternatively, provide totals for the genders of the alleged perpetrators and alleged victims across all of your cases.
- For each case which was dealt with by disciplinary proceedings, how many alleged offenders were i) fired; ii) suspended, iii) received written or verbal warnings.
- Please provide the value of any financial settlement in each case.

- Did any settlements (financial or otherwise) include clauses placing any restriction on the ability of the alleged victim to discuss the events involved or the institution? If so, how many?

Response:

In order to adhere to best practice in maintaining patient/staff confidentiality the Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identity of the patients/staff being revealed. Exemption – Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act is applied. To disclose the information as requested would be in breach of the Data Protection Act (1998). As this information is personal and confidential by virtue of section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, the Trust could therefore refuse to respond to your request in accordance with section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for FoI Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance