

Our Ref: NG/RM/24427
Date: 18th December 2024

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ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 3rd December 2024. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with the following information about the Trust's compliance with the NHS Sexual Safety Charter.

The Trust is a signatory to the charter.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/sexual-safety-in-healthcare-organisational-charter/>

All signatories to the charter, including your Trust, "commit to a zero-tolerance approach to any unwanted, inappropriate and/or harmful sexual behaviours towards our workforce."

Where there are gaps in your records that limit the information you can provide please explain these in response to the relevant question.

If you cannot reasonably provide a full response within the time limits in the FOIA, please advise me asap as to how I might refine my request.

In order to assist you, the Trust's domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) lead should know the answers to these questions.

1. Has the Trust received written advice or guidance from NHS England setting out how to comply with the NHS sexual safety charter? Please answer yes or no. **Yes**
 - 1.1 If yes, please set out what advice or guidance NHS England provided, or provide a copy of it. **Guidance is available on NHS future Platforms, and the Trust is invited to regular meetings with NHS England and the ICB.**
2. Point 10 of the NHS sexual safety charter states: "We will capture and share data on prevalence and staff experience transparently." If you answered yes to question 1, has NHS England provided written advice or guidance as to how the trust should record the prevalence of unwanted, inappropriate and/or harmful sexual behaviour in order to comply with point 10 of the charter? Please answer yes or no. **No**

2.1 If yes, please set out what advice or guidance NHS England has provided or provide a copy of it. Specifically, please clarify whether this guidance prescribes what sexual harm data the Trust should record, and how to record it? For example, does it stipulate that the trusts should record specific categories of sexual harm, such as patient-on-staff or staff-on-patient incidents? If so, please provide details. **Guidance is available on NHS future Platforms, and the Trust is invited to regular meetings with NHS England and the ICB.**

3. If the Trust has received no guidance from NHS England as to how to record the prevalence of unwanted, inappropriate and/or harmful sexual behaviour, how does the Trust currently record these incidents? **Incident reporting- this was already in place prior to the charter.**

3.1 Does the Trust record and centrally collate all types of sexual safety incidents? Please answer yes or no. **Yes**

3.2. Which of the following categories of incidents does the Trust record and centrally collate. Please answer yes or no:

- Patient-on-staff incidents. **Yes**
- Staff-on-staff incidents. **No**
- Patient-on-patient incidents. **Yes**
- Staff-on-staff incidents. **Yes**
- Visitor-on-staff incidents. **Yes**
- Visitor-on-patient incidents. **Yes**
- Patient-on-visitor incidents. **Yes**
- Staff-on-visitor incidents. **No**

3.3 Does the Trust record any other categories of incidents, such as incidents perpetrated by members of the public? If so, please provide details of these categories.

- **3rd Party to Staff**
- **3rd Party to Patient**
- **3rd party to 3rd party**

4. Is the Trust fully compliant with all 10 points of the sexual safety charter? **No**

4.1. If yes, when did the Trust become fully compliant? **N/A**

4.2 If no, what points of the charter has the Trust yet to comply with; and when does the Trust expect to become fully compliant with the charter?

Point 6- Policies for staff are in place but need to be strengthened.

Point 10- The Trust is continuing to make improvements for data capture to include staff on staff incidences alongside patient data. Currently these are separately reported.

5. Has the Trust's compliance with the charter been assessed or audited by NHS England? Please answer yes or no. **No**

5.1 If yes, what were the findings of that assessment or audit? Was the Trust deemed to be fully compliant, partially compliant or not compliant? **N/A**

5.2 If yes, when was the assessment or audit carried out and when did the Trust receive its findings? **N/A**

6. Has the Trust undertaken any internal audits or assessments of its compliance with the sexual safety charter? Please answer yes or no. **Yes**

6.1 If yes, what were the findings of this assessment or audit? **The assessment identified the gap in the points of the charter.**

6.2 If no, does the trust have plans to conduct an audit or assessment of compliance? **N/A**

6.3 If you answered yes to 6.2, when does the Trust plan to conduct this assessment or audit of compliance? **The Trust have regular meetings to look at progress and an action plan is in place.**

7. Does the Trust keep centralised records of child abuse committed on the trust premises? Please answer yes or no. **Yes- allegations.**
8. Which incident and risk reporting system does the Trust use to record sexual unwanted, inappropriate and/or harmful sexual behaviour? (For example, Datix or Ulysses.). **Ulysses.**
9. Has the Trust appointed a domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) lead? Please answer yes or no. **Yes**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance