

Our Ref: NG/RM/25127
Date: 24th April 2025

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Lawton House
Bellringer Road
Trentham
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 10th April 2025. 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 incidents of sexual harm and physical violence that have taken place at your trust. Incidents of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual assault and rape. (See after the question for clarification on these definitions.)

In order to assist you, I understand that some, if not all of this information should be recorded in the Trust's safety incident reporting system, or it may be recorded by your HR team.

If possible, please use one of the attached spreadsheets to provide your answers. Please also explain any gaps in your data.

Please ensure that the data you provide is for financial years, not calendar years.

Total sexual safety incidents

1. How many sexual safety incidents did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25? (This includes incidents by all alleged perpetrators against all alleged victims: staff, patients, visitors, members of the public)
 - 1.1. How many of these incidents took place on the Trust premises?
 - 1.2. How many sexual safety incidents on the Trust premises did the Trust record in the financial year 2023-24?*
 - 1.3. How many sexual safety incidents on the Trust premises did the Trust record in the financial year 2022-23?*

(*My previous FOI asked for total incidents for 2022-23 and 2023-24 but did not specifically ask for only those incidents that occurred on the Trust premises. If your previous response only covered incidents on the Trust premises please answer, 'no change'.)

Sexual safety incidents by staff against patients

2. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by staff against patients did the Trust record in the 2024/25 financial year?

Sexual violence and misconduct by patients against other patients

3. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by patients against other patients did the Trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?

Sexual safety incidents by patients against staff

4. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by patients against staff did the Trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?

Sexual safety incidents by staff against other staff

5. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by staff against other staff did the Trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?

Age of alleged victims

Please provide figures for the 2024-25 financial year:

6. How many of the sexual safety incidents did the Trust record where the victim was a patient:
 - 6.1. Under 18 (this includes under 16 and under 13).
 - 6.2. Under 16 (this includes under 13).
 - 6.3. Under 13.

Only include incidents that occurred on the Trust's premises.

Physical violence

7. How many incidents of physical violence perpetrated by patients against staff did the Trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?
 - 7.1. Do the Trust's records of physical violence by patients distinguish between intentional/deliberate and un/ non-intentional violence? (Unintentional violence might be due to lack of capacity, e.g. a symptom of dementia.)
 - 7.2. If the Trust does breakdown physical violence into intentional/deliberate and un/ non-intentional violence, please provide the following data for the 2024-25 financial year:
 - Number of intentional/ deliberate incidents of physical violence by patients against staff.
 - Number of un/ non-intentional violence incidents of physical violence by patients against staff.

Please see Appendix 1 attached.

Terminology:

Sexual safety incidents include any behaviour of a sexual nature that is unwanted, or makes another person feel uncomfortable or afraid. This covers:

- sexual assault: when a person is coerced or physically forced to engage in sexual activity against their will, or when a person (of any gender) touches another person sexually without their consent.
- sexual harassment: any behaviour that is characterised by inappropriate sexual remarks, gestures or physical advances which are unwanted and make a person feel uncomfortable, intimidated or degrade their dignity.
- Other sexual incidents: where an individual may have witnessed or experienced something of a sexual nature that does not fit into the categories of sexual harassment or assault, and which made the person feel uncomfortable and/or sexually unsafe.

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

NHS Trust name: North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust

Questions

1 How many sexual safety incidents did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25? (This includes incidents by all alleged perpetrators against all alleged victims: staff, patients, visitors, members of the public)		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	144	
1.1 How many of these incidents took place on the trust premises?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	138 There is a 22 difference between this number and the breakdown below, this is due to a category used in our Ulysses that records Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour, this may not be targeted against staff or another patient	
1.2 How many sexual safety incidents on the trust premises did the trust record in the financial year 2023-24?*		
	2023-24	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	*My previous FOI asked for total incidents for 2022-23 and 2023-24 but did not specifically ask for only those incidents that occurred on the trust premises. If your previous response only covered incidents on the trust premises please answer 'no change'. No change	
1.3 How many sexual safety incidents on the trust premises did the trust record in the financial year 2022-23?*		
	2022-23	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	*My previous FOI asked for total incidents for 2022-23 and 2023-24 but did not specifically ask for only those incidents that occurred on the trust premises. If your previous response only covered incidents on the trust premises please answer 'no change'. No change	
2 How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by staff against patients did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	0	
3 How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by patients against other patients did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	40	
4 How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by patients against staff did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	76	
5 How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by staff against other staff did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	0	
6 How many of the sexual safety incidents did the trust record where the victim was a patient under 18 (this includes victims under 16 and under 13) in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	3 N.B. Only include incidents that took place on the trust premises.	
6.1 How many of the sexual safety incidents did the trust record where the victim was a patient under 16 (this includes victims under 13) in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	1 N.B. Only include incidents that took place on the trust premises.	
6.2 How many of the sexual safety incidents did the trust record where the victim was a patient under 13 in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	0 N.B. Only include incidents that took place on the trust premises.	
7 How many incidents of physical violence perpetrated by patients against staff did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	642	
7.1 How many incidents of intentional/deliberate physical violence perpetrated by patients against staff did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	The Trust does not differentiate between intentional/ physical violence	
7.2 How many incidents of un/non-intentional/deliberate physical violence perpetrated by patients against staff did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25?		
	2024-25	Notes, e.g. gaps in data
Answer:	The Trust does not differentiate between intentional/ physical violence	

Please explain any gaps in your data in the notes columns above.

If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions in FOI legislation or the Data Protection Act, cite the exemption/s used in the notes column.

Terminology:

Sexual safety incidents include any behaviour of a sexual nature that is unwanted, or makes another person feel uncomfortable or afraid.This includes:

sexual assault: when a person is coerced or physically forced to engage in sexual activity against their will, or when a person (of any gender) touches another person sexually without their consent.

sexual harassment: any behaviour that is characterised by inappropriate sexual remarks, gestures or physical advances which are unwanted and make a person feel uncomfortable, intimidated or degrade their dignity.

other sexual incidents: where an individual may have witnessed or experienced something of a sexual nature that does not fit in to the categories of sexual harassment or assault, and which made the person feel uncomfortable and/or sexually unsafe.

Un/non-intentional physical violence relates to incidents where the patient lacks capacity, e.g. incidents perpetrated by patients with dementia.