

19 March 2024

Information Rights & Compliance Team
99 Waverley Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804227
Email: Hpft.foi@nhs.net

Our Ref: FOI/04855

Thank you for your request concerning Sexual Safety incidents.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

- The number of sexual safety incidents reported on in-patient wards from 2019 to the latest available month in 2023? – in each case can you specify who was affected (e.g. staff, patient etc.) and who the perpetrator was (e.g. staff, patient etc.) and specify the sex of the parties involved. Could you split the data month and year please (e.g. January 2023, February 2023 etc.)**

We have applied Exemption Section 40(2) due to the small number of incidents of this type when broken down by month and year. This is because entries of 5 or less are considered sufficiently small enough to be potentially identifiable data. On this basis, this information is exempt from the duty to publish¹.

However, under Section 16 – Duty to provide Advice and Assistance we are pleased to provide you with an overall figure as detailed below with the exception of Staff on Staff incidents.

	Total Number
service user to service user (actual sexual assault)	19
Service user to service user (attempted sexual assault)	26
Service user to staff (actual sexual assault)	78
Service user to staff (attempted sexual assault)	71
Staff on staff (actual sexual assault)	5 or less

- How many formal sexual safety complaints have been made on in-patient wards from 2019 to the latest available month in 2023? – in each case can you specify the complainant (e.g. staff or patient etc.) and who the complaint was made against (e.g. staff or patient etc.) and specify the sex of the parties involved. Could you split the data month and year please (e.g. January 2023, February 2023 etc.)**

Please see explanation give under question 1 with regards to the breakdown into months and years¹.

	Service User against Staff	Staff against Service User
2018/19	0	0
2019/20	0	0
2020/21	0	0
2021/22	5 or less	0
2022/23	5 or less	0
2023/24 so far	5 or less	0

¹ Section 40(2) - Personal Data has been applied. This is because by releasing this information could identify individual(s) and constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act (2018).



3. **How many breaches of the single sex ward policy have been recorded (patients being placed on mixed wards) from 2019 to the latest available month in 2023? – if possible, in each case can you specify the sex of the patient(s) affected. Could you split the data month and year please (e.g. January 2023, February 2023 etc.)**

The Trust and other NHS Trusts submit Mixed Sex Accommodation to NHS England on a monthly basis.

The NHS data collection was suspended from March 2020 as a result of the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic but resumed from the 1st November 2021.

The Trust has provided the data for the last 3 years.

2021 - 0

2022 - 0

2023 - 0

4. **How many sexual safety incidents reported across the whole Trust services from 2019 to the latest available month in 2023? - In each case can you specify who made the report (e.g. staff or patient etc.) and who was reported (e.g. staff or patient etc.) and specify the sex of the parties involved. Could you split the data month and year please (e.g. January 2023, February 2023 etc.)**

This information is already in the public domain². Please follow this [link](#) for a previously published response. (FOI 4789 and 4496)

5. **How many reports have been made to the police in relation to sexual safety incidents from 2019 to the latest available month in 2023? - Could you split the data month and year please (e.g. January 2023, February 2023 etc.)**

Between 2019 to date there have been 10 occasions where staff have stated on our Incident Reporting system that sexual safety incidents have been reported to the police. This is where staff have ticked the option 'police called' at the time of the incident being reported. There may be further cases where police were involved at a later date but this would involve manually reading through every incident report of this nature to which would invoke Section 12 – Cost of compliance would exceeds the appropriate limit.

It is not possible to break this data down by month and year as this would result in very low numbers¹. Please see explanation given regarding low numbers under question 1.

6. **Do you have an individual Board lead for sexual safety? - Please answer yes or no.**

Yes.

7. **Have you audited the collaborative 'Sexual Safety Standards' (2020) in your Trust? - Please answer yes or no. If yes, could you provide a copy of the report please.**

No.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

² Section 21 – Information is available through other means

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

