

Date: Thursday, 14th May 2020
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4320

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4320

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 28th April 2020.

Your request was as follows:

1. How many whistleblowing contacts have been raised within the Trust in the following time periods:

March 2019

April 2019

March 2020

April 2020

If possible, please break this down by whether the case was raised with:

- a) The Trust's Freedom to Speak Up Guardian
- b) The Trust's other persons with responsibility for whistleblowing? This could include (but may not be limited to): executive director with responsibility for whistleblowing; non-executive director with responsibility for whistleblowing.

If it isn't possible to break it down in such a fashion, just give the aggregate figures.

If you are unable to give a specific monthly tally for March and/or April 2019, you may provide the total number for the year.

If you are unable to give a specific monthly tally for March and/or April 2020, you may provide the total number for the year to date.

2018/19 = 12

2019/20 = 24

2019/20 (April) = I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 40 (2) - Third Party Data



This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), due to the minimal number of patients identified, and in answering your query may lead to the undue stress of families and patients as this information may still lead to patients being identified. Therefore this information has not been released for reasons of confidentiality.

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

2. Does the Trust hold data about these contacts/cases in a spreadsheet or database? If so, please could you provide a list of the data fields - for clarity, this could include but is not limited to categories such as "type of complaint", "status of complaint", etc.

For each item on the list of data fields, please state if the value is to be filled in as a free text field, or a value selected from a drop-down menu. For each of the fields where a value is to be selected from a drop-down menu, please include the options from the drop-down menu.

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust does hold an excel doc which The Trust's Freedom to Speak Up Guardian has developed for staff members who raise concerns but this is confidential. However the National Guardian website may be able to provide guidance as to what information is required to be recorded on a database www.nationalguardian.org.uk

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. 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 the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4320 in any future communications.

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 Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information