



Freedom of Information Team  
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Queen Alexandra Hospital  
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Portsmouth  
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PO6 3LY

Name:  
Email:  
Date: 15/05/2023  
Ref: 23-24 070

Dear

**RE: Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 02/05/2023. Please see responses to your requests below.

**1) Please tell me how many times your Trust has logged an incident of alleged sexual harassment from patients towards staff in 2022.**

The Trust are unable to give definite data from 01/01/2022 to the 11/07/2022 as these types of incidents were not captured separately on our incident reporting system. However, when the system was upgraded this category was included, and so between 11/07/2022 to the 31/12/2022 there were less than five incidents reported of sexual harassment from patients towards staff.

For those incidents that are less than five, the Trust are unable to provide precise figures when these are five or less, this is due to the risk that individuals will be identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the Data Protection Act. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure.

**2) For the five most recent cases, please tell me.**

**a) the job title of the member of staff against whom the behaviour was levelled.**

Please see exemption in question 1.

**b) a brief summary of the content of the complaint (patient said "you can warm your hands up on me" during a physical examination, patient wolf-whistled at nurse, etc.).**

Please see exemption in question 1.

**c) the action taken by the Trust.**

Wherever sexual inappropriate behaviour, harassment or assault occur. The Trust encourages staff to report it on the Datix system and to the police.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on [Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk) or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information, please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team