

Ref: 25-086

Freedom of Information Request

8 April 2025

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

Please can you provide answers to the below questions under the FOI act.

- 1. Please answer yes or no. In January 2025 was your Trust conducting any... internal review / investigation / report being compiled... into a consultant that has had concerns raised about him or her (ie. a whistleblower has come forward and named the person)? Yes
- 2. Please answer yes or no. In January 2025 was your Trust conducting any... internal review / investigation / report being compiled...into a junior doctor that has had concerns raised about him or her (ie. a whistleblower has come forward and named the person)?

Yes

- 3. Please answer yes or no. In January 2025 was your Trust conducting any... internal review / investigation / report being compiled... into a nurse that has had concerns raised about him or her (ie. a whistleblower has come forward and named the person)?
- 4. Please answer yes or no. Has your Trust conducted / started or concluded an internal or external review / investigation of a medical member of staff since January 1st 2023 following a whistleblower or patient raising concerns?

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

5. Please answer yes or no. If you answered yes to question 4 - did the member of medical staff being investigated continue to have contact with patients whilst the ... review/investigation/report being written ... was ongoing?

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6. If you answered yes to Question 4, is the member(s) of staff that was investigated / reviewed still working at your Trust following the review conclusions?

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7. If you answered yes to Question 4, for those reports that have concluded, was the member of staff that was investigated / reviewed found to have fallen short of the standards your Trust would expect from their medical staff?

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8. If you answered yes to Question 4, how many members of medical staff were reviewed/ investigated following an internal whistleblower raising concerns?

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9. If you answered yes to Question 4, was the whistleblower also investigated?

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10. Please answer yes or no. Do you have any experience with a malicious whistleblower? If yes, please share further details if able. (An example of a malicious whistleblower is someone that reports a colleague purely because they want to cause that person repetitional harm, not because they have any actual knowledge of them falling below expected standards for the trust).

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11. Please share any review conclusions / reports / write ups where possible.

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12. Please share any further details of your whistleblower policy here. How do you manage whistleblowers when they raise concerns?

Please see the attached document.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, 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:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above 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 Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click here.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust