

20240819 Ref 195-2425 FOI Request

– Alleged Sexual Assaults against people aged 60 and over by staff members

In 2022 I published a research paper on sexual assaults of people aged 60 and over that took place in an NHS England hospital setting where the alleged perpetrator was a member of hospital staff (either directly employed or agency staff). This research included data from a five year period from 2016/17 to 2020/21 and identified at least 76 incidents that were reported via NHS data collection systems.

I am now revisiting this research, in partnership with UK Charity Hourglass (Safer Ageing) and requesting data for the three financial years 2021/22 to 2023/24.

In revisiting the research I aim to discover not only if there have been any statistical changes but also if introduction of Sexual Safety Policies by NHS England have had any impact on the numbers or response to victims.

FOI Questions:

Number of reported sexual assault incidents where the victim was aged 60 or over and alleged perpetrator was a staff member (including agency staff)

How many sexual safety incidents has the trust recorded where the alleged victim was a patient aged 60 or over and the alleged perpetrator was a staff member (including agency staff)?

Please provide figures for:

April 2021 to the end of March 2024 (total)

2021-22

2022-23

2023-24

I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding years 2021/22 and 2022/23, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible* by other means. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: FOI ref 483-23214 October

NOTE: we have no information on the ages of the alleged perpetrator

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

Any complaints about sexual assault and sexual safety incidents can be reported via varying methods e.g., DATIX, HR, Freedom to Speak up, line manager, patient experience and therefore there is no central reporting system.

Any complaints reported via UHNM's internal reporting system, Datix, can be extracted into a report: It is not a requirement to report all sexual assault and sexual safety incidents on Datix as there may be confidential/sensitive information that the complainant does not want within this forum. Any incidents involving UHNM staff, whether this is staff against staff, patients against staff or staff against patients will be reported to the People Directorate and recorded on a tracker which is held and maintained by the People Directorate team.

Do you have a Sexual Safety policy in place that covers assaults on patients by staff?
Yes – this is included in Adult Safeguarding policy at UHNM. This policy is cross referenced to HR policies. We are currently creating a specific policy for allegations against staff.

Does the policy also explicitly address the sexual abuse of older people?

Yes. This policy is for ages 18+

Have staff received training on dealing with sexual abuse against people with dementia?

Sexual abuse is referenced within all adult safeguarding training provided at UHNM.

What training have staff received on dealing with sexual abuse against people with dementia?

Sexual abuse is referenced within all adult safeguarding training provided at UHNM.

Level 1 adult safeguarding training is mandatory for all staff at UHNM to complete upon induction, then renew 3yearly.

Specific staff groups are allocated higher adult safeguarding training of levels 2 and 3, of which is to be renewed 3 yearly.

Is this training mandatory for staff dealing with patients with dementia?

Level 1 adult safeguarding training is mandatory for all staff at UHNM to complete upon induction, then renew 3yearly.

If your hospital has incidents recorded, please provide more information:

Sex of victims-= information not held

No. Male	No. Female	No. Other

Sex of alleged perpetrator= information not held

No. Male	No. Female	No. Other

Role(s) of alleged perpetrators = information not held

HCA	Nursing Staff	Surgeon	Anaesthetist	Other

Locations of alleged incidents (pls specify number for each incident)= information not held

Same Sex Ward	Single Sex Ward	Theatre	Public Area	Other

Was incident reported to the police (please specify number for each incident)= information not held

Yes	No

If not reported, please give reasons for this:= information not held

Please indicate if outcome of any police investigations if known:

information not held

Was a referral made to the local Sexual Assault Referral Centre? (please specify number for each incident)= information not held

Yes	No

Was the victim signposted to sexual violence support services (please specify number for each incident)= information not held

Yes	No

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