

Date: 7 January 2020

Our reference: **FOIRQ5627**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your following request for information:

Your Request

Please answer the following questions separately for the following financial years (i) 2015/16, (ii) 2016/17, (iii) 2017/18 and (iv) 2018-19.

1. *(a) How many reports of sexual assaults on patients were recorded by you, and (b) of these how many were patients who were on mixed-sex wards?*
2. *How many reports of sexual assaults on staff were recorded by you?*
3. *How many of the (a) patient sexual assaults and (b) staff sexual assaults were reported to the police.*

Our Response

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. The Trust does not centrally record information in the format of the questions you have specified for (1) to (3). We have carried out reasonable enquiries with the relevant teams, who have carried out local checks of their systems and databases; but the case system does not enable us to identify in the format of reports on sexual assaults on patients and staff. This information would likely to be held within individual records and would require a wider search to be carried between more than one team to see whether they can identify, locate and extract any relevant information.

We have carried out a sampling exercise of our incident reporting system using key words and there is no category for 'sexual assaults' although the information requested could possibly fall under the category of 'Violence and aggressions for assaults against adults' or 'Safeguarding for assaults against children'. In carrying out further searches under these categories would mean having to pull all the reported incidents together to manually review each individual record covering the time period you have specified for each financial year from 2015/16 – 2018/19.

The Trust has estimated the amount of work involved to carry out a manual search of both categories and several other searches, such as cross-checking and referencing the data with other systems would exceed the 18 hour cost limit stipulated for processing a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We have calculated that to conduct a search and cross-check each record would take approximately 10-15 minutes, which means the time estimated to complete the search would require a minimum of 112 hours to complete the search of both categories. Your request is therefore exempt under Section 12 (Cost Limit) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows the Trust to refuse a request where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for Section 12 purposes is defined by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 - SI 2004 No. 3244 ('Fees Regulation').

Under regulation 3 of the Fees Regulation the appropriate cost limit for the Trust is £450. The Fees Regulation also states that all authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded, if it would require more than 18 hours' work for the Trust to carry out the following activities in complying with the request:

- determining whether the information is held
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

Please note:

The information we have provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held on the date your request was received by the Trust.

We hope the information provided is sufficient and helpful in answering your questions or any issues or concerns. Should you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any related correspondence.

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Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information team

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

Email: foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk

[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]

Your Rights

Should you have any questions relating to the response you have received to your request for information, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team. Alternatively, you are entitled to make a request for an internal review within two months from the date of receiving our final response to your original request. You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety team
Great Ormond Street Hospital
LONDON
WC1N 3JH

If, however, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review then you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner as the final stage of the FOI process. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Fax: 01625 524510