



# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Web: [www.wwl.nhs.uk](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk)

Ref: FOI/2025/10475

Date Received: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Response Due: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**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)?**  
No.
- 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)?**  
Yes.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 following a whistleblower or patient raising concerns?**  
Yes.

**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?**

Yes.

**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?**

Yes and no.

**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?**

Yes.

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

Internal excluding any external referrals, since 2023 - 2025 = 9.

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

No.

**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).**

No.

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

This information is being withheld under Section 40(2) (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because releasing this information would make individuals identifiable.

Section 40(2) is an 'absolute' exemption, and the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

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

Under our FTSU policy we are clear how individuals who raise concerns, including those which would fall as a protected disclosure, would be responded to and what we will do next. In terms of communication the policy advises as follows - We will treat you with respect at all times and will thank you for speaking up. We will discuss the issues with you to ensure we understand exactly what you are worried about. If we decide to investigate, we will tell you how long we expect the investigation to take and agree with you how to keep you up to date with its progress. Wherever possible, we will share the full investigation report with you (while respecting the confidentiality of others and recognising that some matters may be strictly confidential; as such it may be that we cannot even share the outcome with you).

Where an individual raises concerns under a different route, we would still expect these principles to be applied.

**Clarification:** As the term "Whistleblower" is referenced multiple times within this request, please could you confirm what you are classing as a Whistleblower/the definition.

**Response:** Whistleblowing is the activity of a person - the whistleblower - often an employee, revealing information about activity within a private or public organization that is deemed illegal, immoral, illicit, unsafe or fraudulent. Whistleblowers can use a variety of internal or external channels to communicate information or allegations.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sanjay Arya', written over a horizontal line.

Sanjay Arya  
Medical Director

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111