

**Wrightington, Wigan and  
Leigh Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Information Governance Department**

Suite 9  
Buckingham Row  
Brick Kiln Lane  
Wigan  
WN1 1XX

Email: [foi@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@wwl.nhs.uk)

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

Ref: FOI/2024/9987

Date Received: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Response Due: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 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:

- 1. A list of the number of all employees accused or arrested on charges of child sexual abuse from January 1, 2019, until the day this request is fulfilled. Please consider the timeframe listed in request (1) above for all subsequent requests below.**

Less than 5.

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

- 2. A breakdown of the different crimes reported: rape, grooming, groping, lewd acts, anal or vaginal penetration, and other examples listed as crime by the Home Office.**

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual personnel files. We do not request staff to interrogate records in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

- 3. All disciplinary files or records of employees investigated for child sexual abuse. This request relates to employees whose names have already been released into the public domain and as such, Section 40 of the Act which exempts sensitive information on the identity of these employees cannot be applied to this request.**

The Trust does not hold this data as the investigation was conducted by external authorities.

- 4. An annual summary from 2019 of all legal costs, settlements, or restitution paid to affected families of these children.**

£0.

**Rather, this request is seeking information on any employee at your Trust who has been accused of sexually abusing a child in England within the last five years. Please be guided that neither the Trust nor its employees are required to provide treatment or services to children before this request is being considered. Such employee must've been accused of arrested on charges of child sexual abuse carried out in England and not necessarily within the confines of a hospital or its premises. Such public records should include, but not be limited to, all complaints; allegations; claims; investigatory reports; analyses; summaries; memoranda and/or notes; interview recordings; transcripts and/or notes; reviews; emails, text or other electronic messages, voicemails, and/or other communications and/or correspondence; determinations; decisions; orders; resignation letters; employment reclassification documents; offers in compromise and/or settlement agreements; termination and/or transfer papers; letters of reproof and/or other disciplinary actions, whether imposed or not; referrals to law enforcement, administrative, and/or licensing agencies, departments, and/or bodies; appeals; court filings and/or rulings; and all similar materials notwithstanding the use of other terminology, nomenclature, or categorization by this or other involved public agencies.**

**When fulfilling this request, please exclude emails from mailing lists, which can often be identified by excluding emails with keyword "unsubscribe." If the records office has an alternative method for excluding emails from mailing lists, kindly employ that methodology.**

**If you determine that any of the information qualifies for an exemption from disclosure, I ask you to note whether the exemption is discretionary, and if so whether it is necessary in this case to exercise your discretion to withhold the information. In any event, please provide a signed notification citing the legal authorities on which you rely if you determine that any of the information is exempt and will not be disclosed.**

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 blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a trailing line, followed by a small dot.

Juliette Tait  
Chief People Officer

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