

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
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/9667

Date Received: 29th February 2024

Response Due: 28th March 2024

Date: 26th March 2024

Dear Madam,

With reference to your request for information received on 29th February 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. How many doctors have been subjected to formal disciplinary processes, including MHPS, in the last 7 years?

2017 – <5

2018 – 0

2019 – 0

2020 – <5

2021 – <5

2022 – <5

2023 - 0

2. For each formal disciplinary, as outlined in Question 1, what is the duration of the process from start to finish (in days)?

Please note the duration of the disciplinary process has been withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing the information would make individual patients 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.

3. What data is provided to the Board, and how regularly, regarding disciplinarys against doctors within the Trust?

The below questions are answered and submitted to the People Committee annually.

This is ratified by the Trust Board.

How many doctors have been through the Maintaining High Professional Standards (MHPS) or equivalent process between DDMMYY and DDMMYY?	
How many doctors have been referred to the GMC between DDMMYY and DDMMYY?	
How many doctors have been referred to the Practitioner Performance Advice Service (PPA) between DDMMYY and DDMMYY?	
How many doctors have been excluded from practice between DDMMYY and DDMMYY?	

4. Have all Case Investigators and Case Managers conducting disciplinary processes within your Trust undertaken mandatory training on the disciplinary process?

No

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,



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