

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: [Ref EPUT.FOI.18.702](#)
Date Received: [Date 08/08/18](#)

***Note to Applicant:** As of 1 April 2017, North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEP) and South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) merged to form one new organisation known as Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT).

Information Requested:

I am looking into incidents of trust staff or contractors improperly using messaging platforms (such as, but not limited to, WhatsApp) to communicate information relating to patients.

For each of the last five years (2014 to 2018 inclusive), please tell me:

- how many staff or contractors at your trust have been investigated for doing so.
- how many staff or contractors were sanctioned / disciplined for doing so. For each sanction, please say what it was: for example, if it was a monetary fine, please give the value; if it was a suspension, please give the duration.
- For each incident of a staff member or contractor being investigated and / or sanctioned, please say: 1) what messaging platform was involved; 2) that individual's broad role at the trust, for example doctor (junior or consultant), nurse, management.
- For each incident of a staff member or contractor being investigated and / or sanctioned, please say whether the patient or patients concerned were informed that a possible misuse of their data had taken place
- Does your trust have explicit rules against such use? If so, please point to them.

Investigations of incidents of trust staff or contractors improperly using messaging platforms (such as, but not limited to, WhatsApp) to communicate information relating to patients.

2014 – 0
 2015 – 0
 2016 – 0
 2017 – 0
 2018 – 2

Year	Job Title	Messaging Platform	Suspension	Sanction	Patient Informed
2018	Qualified Nurse	SystemOne	No	No further action. Recommendations to Head of Service and Head of IT&T	No as no data breach

2018	Admin & Clerical	SystmOne	No	No further action. Recommendations to Head of Service and Head of IT&T	No as no data breach
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