

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.23.3018
Date Received: 14th of June 2023

Information Requested:

I'm writing to request figures under the Freedom of Information publication scheme. Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust takes all reports of sexual misconduct seriously and all reports are recorded pending thorough investigation and regardless of outcome. All staff have a professional duty to report concerns and a lot of work has taken place across the Trust to build a culture in which colleagues and patients are encouraged to report concerns via our Freedom to Speak Up network and Patient Liaison Service in addition to our formal incident reporting systems.

Clear systems are in place to ensure all reported incidents are recorded and investigated swiftly and all staff take regular mandatory safeguarding training reminding them of the importance of reporting concerns and how to do so.

The Trust records all aspects of Sexual misconduct and violence under the 'Sexual Safety' Category on its Incident Management system. The following data is the appropriate sub categories relevant to the request received.

Sexual misconduct covers a broad range of inappropriate, unwanted sexual behaviour. From the most severe forms of sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault, it also extends across to sexual harassment, stalking, and abusive or degrading remarks. The NHS definition of sexual violence describes it as any sexual act that a person did not consent to, or is forced into against their will, including rape, sexual assault, unwanted sexual touching, forced kissing, child sexual abuse, sexual torture and other sexual offences

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1. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2016 - 01/01/2017
The collation of data from 2010 – 2017 would require the search of multiple legacy systems therefore The Trust is unable to provide all of the information requested as this would require a manual trawl and exceed the time and cost limits, as set out in the Act. The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit).
 2. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2016 - 01/01/2017
Please see response to question 1.
 3. The number of active investigations into reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2016 - 01/01/2017
Please see response to question 1.
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4. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2017 - 01/01/2018

We can provide sexual misconduct incidents for the period of 2017-2018 are already detailed in EPUT.FOI.22.2648. This is publicly available on the <https://eput.nhs.uk/media/lecfzsy/eput-foi-22-2648-response.pdf> website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means)

5. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2017 - 01/01/2018

Please see response to question 4.

6. The number of active investigations into reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2017 - 01/01/2018

Please see response to question 4.

7. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2018 - 01/01/2019

We can provide sexual misconduct incidents for the period of 2018-2019 are already detailed in EPUT.FOI.22.2648. This is publicly available on the <https://eput.nhs.uk/media/lecfzsy/eput-foi-22-2648-response.pdf> website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means)

8. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2018 - 01/01/2019

Please see response to question 7.

9. The number of active investigations into reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2018 - 01/01/2019

Please see response to question 7.

10. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2018 - 01/01/2019

Please see response to question 7.

11. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2018 - 01/01/2019

Please see response to question 8.

12. The number of active investigations into reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2018 - 01/01/2019

Please see response to question 9.

13. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2019 - 01/01/2020

We can provide sexual misconduct incidents for the period of 2019-2020 are already detailed in EPUT.FOI.22.2648. This is publicly available on the <https://eput.nhs.uk/media/lecfzsyx/eput-foi-22-2648-response.pdf> website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means)

14. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2019 - 01/01/2020

Please see response to question 13.

15. The number of active investigations into reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2019 - 01/01/2020

Please see response to question 13

16. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2020 - 01/01/2021

We can provide sexual misconduct incidents for the period of 2020-2021 are already detailed in EPUT.FOI.22.2648. This is publicly available on the <https://eput.nhs.uk/media/lecfzsyx/eput-foi-22-2648-response.pdf> website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means)

17. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2020 - 01/01/2021

Please see response to question 16.

18. The number of active investigations into reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2020 - 01/01/2021

Please see response to question 16.

19. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2021 - 01/01/2022

We can provide sexual misconduct incidents for the period of 2021-2022 are already detailed in EPUT.FOI.22.2648. This is publicly available on the <https://eput.nhs.uk/media/lecfzsyx/eput-foi-22-2648-response.pdf> website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means)

20. The number of reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2021 - 01/01/2022

Please see response to question 19.

21. The number of active investigations into reports of sexual abuse or assault made by people against staff members while staying in mental health facilities in period 01/01/2021 - 01/01/2022

Please see response to question 19.

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>