

Information Governance & Records Management Department

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Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 1615 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding:-

Forensic clinical staffing levels

Your request is set out below:

1. For each forensic mental health ward within the health trust please disclose the number of shifts in the last 12 months where clinical staffing levels fell below recommended safe levels.

Furthermore, could you please provide me with the current guidelines or policies in place that specify the recommended safe staffing levels for clinical staff in forensic wards within the health trust?

Please see below table, however please note this is shown as total percentage of total staffing hours for each ward as this is how we monitor our clinical nursing staffing in KMPT rather than a shift by shift calculation.

Please also note these figures relate to nursing only. All other clinical staff from other disciplines such as Clinical Psychologists and Occupational Therapists are in addition to the below figures.

We are proud to be smoke free

Trust Chair – Dr Jackie Craissati

Chief Executive – Helen Greateorex

Directorate	Ward	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23
Forensic & Specialist	Allington Centre	98%	96%	105%	101%	114%	94%	94%	94%	95%	93%	97%	113%
Forensic & Specialist	Brookfield Centre	97%	89%	95%	91%	94%	92%	91%	93%	98%	94%	104%	99%
Forensic & Specialist	Emmetts	91%	91%	87%	86%	89%	90%	91%	90%	94%	96%	96%	96%
Forensic & Specialist	Groombridge	94%	92%	96%	94%	95%	96%	94%	95%	99%	98%	98%	100%
Forensic & Specialist	Penshurst	121%	116%	110%	114%	110%	107%	105%	115%	114%	111%	114%	111%
Forensic & Specialist	Tarentfort Centre	143%	165%	162%	168%	167%	167%	161%	176%	185%	195%	203%	211%
Forensic & Specialist	Walmer	80%	84%	91%	93%	92%	89%	89%	87%	91%	93%	93%	96%

Where the percentage is showing over 100%, this demonstrates where extra staff are being used to support clinical escalations for patients and therefore exceed the standard staffing level.

Where there is an under 100% staffing, wards follow the staffing escalation policy within KMPT to manage shift staffing numbers safely.

In regard to guidelines and policies to support our safer staffing numbers we use the MHOST tool within KMPT, and this tool has a section to indicate recommended staffing numbers for forensic wards depending on patient needs and dependency.

The Mental Health Optimal Staffing Tool (MHOST), created with the support of HEE, calculates clinical staffing requirements in mental health wards based on patients' needs (acuity and dependency) which, together with professional judgement, guides chief nurses and ward based clinical staff in their safe staffing decisions.

I confirm that the information above completes your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am also pleased to confirm that no charge will be made for this request.

If you have any questions or concerns or are unhappy with the response provided or the service you have received you can write to the Head of Information Governance at the address on top of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of
The Information Governance Department