

NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Information Governance & Records Management Department

St Michaels House St Michaels Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 3DW

Tel: 01795 514525

Email: kmpt.inforaccess@nhs.net Website: www.kmpt.nhs.uk

Sent via email



Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 42051 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding:-

Sexual assaults, rapes and sexual harassment reports

Your request is set out below:

1. The number of a) sexual assaults, b) rapes and c) sexual harassment/abuse offences reported at your trust, for the calendar years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Please list the number of

- a) sexual assaults,
- b) rapes (including gang rapes please specify) and
- c) sexual harassment/ abuse offences reported per year

We do not centrally record sexual misconduct incidents by specific incident type. All cases, ranging from indecent exposure to rape, are recorded under one single category and include allegations that are upheld as well as those that are not. While information on specific incident type is held on other reporting systems, we are unable to separate the incidents by sexual assaults, rapes and sexual harassment, as we believe to do so would exceed the appropriate time limits, as per the Freedom of Information Act 2000 section 12(1) which does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information act mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

Please find the total number of incidents captured in this single category below.

	2021	2022	2023
No. of Sexual (including harassment and indecent exposure) Incidents	138	146	100

- 2. Of those, please specify:
 - how many were reported to the police

We are proud to be smoke free

- how many had staff listed as a suspect, and how many had staff listed as a victim
- how many had a patient(s) listed as a suspect, and how many had a patient(s) listed as a victim
- please also specify report outcomes, i.e. how many resulted in police action, without any identifiers

	2021	2022	2023
No. of incidents reported to the police	13	22	18
No. of incidents where staff were a victim	72	70	63
No. of incidents where patients were a victim	86	93	53

KMPT is committed to providing our patients, staff and visitors with a safe and secure environment. We do not tolerate any form of violence or aggression and take every complaint extremely seriously. We immediately put safeguarding arrangements in place and any allegations of criminal behaviour are reported to the police, who then determine whether there are grounds for further investigation. If there are, we fully support the police with their investigation and enquiries. Due to the nature of the work we do, the background to such complaints can be complex and require detailed investigation to understand the facts and determine what has taken place. It is important to note that not all allegations result in a complaint being upheld.

We are unable to provide figures for how many staff of patients were "listed as a suspect", as the term "suspect" has a specific meaning: someone believed to be guilty of a crime. Only the police can determine who may or may not be a suspect. As a result, we do not hold this data.

With regard to your request "please specify report outcomes": The requested information is not held centrally. It is contained within individual incident records and archive systems which cannot be extracted as a standalone piece of data. In order to extract the requested information and collate the results would require a manual exercise to identify and review incident records and would exceed the appropriate time limits, as per the Freedom of Information Act 2000 section 12(1) which does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

3. Please also provide a copy of your sexual safety policy.

Please find policy attached. The trust also has an Allegations Against People in a Position of Trust policy, a Boundaries policy, and a Freedom to Speak Up policy. These enable a culture that safeguards patients and staff.

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