



Kent and Medway
NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Information Governance & Records Management Department

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Sent via email

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 48076 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding: -

Sexual Safety on Mental Health Wards

Your request is set out below:

1. Has the Trust ever commissioned a thematic review of all the sexual safety incidents across the trust between the period 2018 to 2025 and if so can copies of the thematic reviews be shared and if they are embedded in the bulky board papers please could you provide links to the specific board papers for that period

2 thematic reviews completed – 1 in 2021 and 1 in 2022 and have been attached.

It has been necessary to redact information from within these reviews, in order to ensure there is no information included which may identify any living person.

2. Sexual Safety Incidents on In-Patient Wards and in the community - Please provide:
 - a) The number of sexual safety incidents reported from January 2018 to the present date.
For each incident, please specify in a tabular format:
 - Who was affected (e.g., staff, patient, etc.)
 - Who the perpetrator was (e.g., staff, patient, etc.)
 - The sex of the parties involved.Please provide the data split by month and year (e.g., January 2023, February 2023, etc.).
Explain if the Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance (Section 16) applies.

Due to the low numbers involved in the response to your request I would like to confirm that we are unable to release the information, in full. We are not obliged, under section 40 (2) FOIA to provide information that is personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance we believe that the figures are significantly low enough that identification of those involved could be made, and would therefore contravene the first Data Protection principle, therefore section 40 (2) is engaged.

The terms of this exemption in the freedom of information act means that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information

We are proud to be smoke free

Trust Chair – Dr Jackie Craissati
Chief Executive – Sheila Stenson

Sexual Safety Incidents (Inpatient Wards) by Incident Category and Incident Date	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by patient	26	37	49	45	44	29	17	5
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by staff	<5	5	6	19	18	13	16	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by visitor / other	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	6	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by patient	70	82	57	53	56	44	51	8
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by staff	0	0	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by visitor / other	< 5	0	0	0	< 5	0	0	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards visitor / other by patient	< 5	< 5	0	0	< 5	< 5	0	0

Sexual Safety Incidents (Community) by Incident Category and Incident Date	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by patient	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	0	0	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by staff	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	0	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by visitor / other	< 5	0	< 5	6	7	6	< 5	< 5
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by patient	< 5	< 5	< 5	10	5	< 5	< 5	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by staff	0	0	0	0	0	< 5	0	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by visitor / other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards visitor / other by patient	< 5	< 5	6	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5

3. Formal and informal Sexual Safety Complaints /incidents (those reported to the police and those that weren't reported):
- a) The total number of formal and informal sexual safety complaints made on in-patient wards for the specified period (and corresponding numbers in the community)
- For each complaint or incident please specify:
- The complainant (e.g., staff, patient, etc.)
 - Who the complaint was made against (e.g., staff, patient, etc.)
 - The sex of the parties involved.

Due to the low numbers involved in the response to your request I would like to confirm that we are unable to release the information, in full. We are not obliged, under section 40 (2) FOIA to provide information that is personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance we believe that the figures are significantly low enough that identification of those involved could be made, and would therefore contravene the first Data Protection principle, therefore section 40 (2) is engaged.

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There have been three reported complaints. Of these, 2 have been reported to both the police and our safeguarding colleagues, which one remains under investigation.

4. Breaches of Single-Sex Ward Policy:

- a) The total number of breaches of the single-sex ward policy recorded during this period.

There has been no breaches of the single-sex ward policy during this time.

- b) Please provide a copy of the Trust single-sex ward policy.

Please find DSSA policy attached

5. Sexual Safety Incidents Across the Trust:

- a) The total number of sexual safety incidents reported across the entire Trust services for the period in question.

Due to the low numbers involved in the response to your request I would like to confirm that we are unable to release the information, in full. We are not obliged, under section 40 (2) FOIA to provide information that is personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance we believe that the figures are significantly low enough that identification of those involved could be made, and would therefore contravene the first Data Protection principle, therefore section 40 (2) is engaged.

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

Sexual Safety Incidents (Trustwide) by Incident Category and Incident Date	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by patient	27	37	52	45	48	29	17	5
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by staff	7	6	9	20	21	15	16	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards patient by visitor / other	< 5	< 5	5	9	9	7	10	< 5
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by patient	74	86	59	63	61	47	52	8
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by staff	0	0	< 5	0	< 5	< 5	< 5	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards staff by visitor / other	< 5	0	0	0	< 5	0	0	0
Sexual abuse (including indecent exposure) towards visitor / other by patient	6	6	6	< 5	< 5	6	< 5	< 5

6. Reports to the Police:

- a) The number of reports made to the police in relation to sexual safety incidents for the period in question
Please provide the data split by month and year.

QUESTION 6

Sexual Safety Incidents (Trustwide) where Police contacted and Incident Date	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Yes	8	10	19	16	20	22	31	6
No	69	86	62	63	65	70	67	9
Unknown	41	41	51	59	61	13	0	0

7. Executive Scheme of Delegation and Governance Manual:

- a) Does your Trust have an executive Scheme of Delegation and Governance Manual? please provide link to the document.

Please find attached

- b) How many iterations/changes have these documents undergone during this period?

This is detailed within the document

- c) Who is the executive lead for sexual safety and are there any escalation report from the lead to board during this period? (please provide copies or links to board papers or escalation reports from board committees on sexual safety at least one report per year)

The Executive Lead for Sexual Safety is Andy Cruickshank Chief Nurse.

The Operation/Delegated Lead for Sexual Safety is Alison Deakin Head of Safeguarding.

The People Committee part of the Executive Board, and Executive Board had training/discussion in 2024 in regarding Sexual Safety Information and NHSE standards in readiness to receive reports, with opportunity for responsiveness should concerns or themes be identified as an area requiring Executive oversight. The current progress reflects the September 2023 introduction of the NHSE sexual safety framework, and work to ensure reporting is meaningful with appropriate training.

The sexual safety report is in development stages and has not yet been shared formally (paper) with the Executive Group. Due to the reporting process safeguarding reports and data can be accessed anytime. An annual sexual safety report will be shared for 2023-2024, with consideration of frequency of reporting. Both the Chief People Officer and Executive Lead for Safeguarding who sit on the Executive Board have access to information to escalate/raise awareness to the board as needed.

Board papers covering the last few years can be located on our website at the following link <https://www.kmpt.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-board/board-meetings/>

- d) Has your Trust carried out any sexual safety audits during this period?

An external independent review of Sexual Safety on all of our Wards was commissioned and completed in June 2023 utilising the National Sexual Safety Collaborative (SSC) bench marking tool. The action plan from the audit can be seen in the slides shared with our People Committee, part of our executive board functions. To enable the application of the recommendations, and embedding of training and resource, a formal review audit is not planned until Q1 of 2025-2026. Standard Bi-monthly review is completed by the Head of Safeguarding to keep the progress on track.

- If so, how many? please share action plans derived from the sexual safety audits at least an annual action plan on sexual safety for each of the years in question)

Demonstrated within the presentations to the People Committee and Part 2 Executive Board

- e) Has the sexual safety policy ever been audited regarding effective implementation as part of the annual policies effectiveness audit workplan?
- If so, what were the recommendations from the last two policy audits?

The sexual safety policy is being audited currently, for Q4 reporting, in readiness for updates as necessary to be implemented in Q1 2025.

8. Policies and procedures:

- a) Does your Trust have the following policies?
- MAPPA policy
 - MARAC policy

- People in Position of Trust (PiPoT) policy
- Professional supervision policy
- b) Policy on interim locum or temporary workers accessing vulnerable patients, specifying the vetting and supervision arrangements with the agency for the staff they supply to the Trust or policy on how the trust supervises its own bank or temporary staff
- c) Please Can you share copies or link to these documents or policies that govern these arrangements with workforce suppliers clarifying the need for an uptake in Active Bystander Training to address sexual harassment in NHS Trusts addressing /Tackling the impact of wilful blindness within organisational culture, accountability and Governance oversight?

Please find attached policies

9. National Reporting on Sexual Safety Abuse:

- a) There was national reporting on sexual safety abuse in mental health services in February 2024. Please share your organisational learning briefing from this national report that was discussed at the board and any corresponding self-assessment and learning action plans where applicable

An information/ presentation session regarding the information shared in regard to mental health and sexual safety as part of wider sexual safety discussions was delivered by the Head of Safeguarding to the People Committee part of the Executive Board. The learning and actions were within the presentation.

Sexual safety was also included within Induction training and safeguarding training to front-line staff to support the delivery of sexual safety as part of an 'every bodies business' approach

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