

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST RF517-19**

We can confirm East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) holds the information you have requested.

**1. When did the trust first appoint a Freedom to Speak up Guardian, champion, ambassador or equivalent?**

We can confirm EKHUFT first appointed in March 2017.

**2. How many individuals currently hold such posts within the trust?**

EKHUFT can confirm 3 individuals currently hold such posts.

**3. Please give the professional backgrounds and seniority of all the Freedom To Speak Up Guardians or equivalent who have ever been appointed.**

EKHUFT can confirm as follows:

- March 2017: Band 7 theatre nurse -
- March 2017: Band 8 Matron
- March 2017: Consultant Physician
- January 2019: Consultant Surgeon

**4. Is there ring fenced time for these posts, and if so what is the total WTE?**

EKHUFT can confirm there is no ring fenced time for these posts.

**5. Please advise if any Freedom to Speak up Guardians have stepped down, and if so, how long were they in post as Freedom To Speak Up Guardians?**

EKHUFT can confirm the Band 7 theatre nurse stepped down after 6 months in post.

**6. Please provide by, financial year, a spreadsheet which gives the number, broad nature of concerns raised with your Freedom To Speak Up Guardian(s) or equivalent, and the outcome.**

EKHUFT declines to provide this information as it is accessible by other means – Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies. All of this information is publically available via the National Guardian's Office webpage – please refer to the quarterly reports you will find there:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/national-guardians-office/content/national-guardians-office>

**7. Please advise how many times your Freedom To Speak Up Guardian(s) or equivalent have escalated any whistleblowing case issues to:**

EKHUFT can confirm as follows:

i. the National Guardian = None

ii. the Care Quality Commission = None

(ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED AS AT FEBRUARY 2019)

