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From: National Guardian's Office <REDACTED >

To: REDACTED

Sent: Mon, 5 Dec 2022 13:12

Subject: RE: FOI Request: Disclosures to the National Guardian by NHS Trust staff

Dear REDACTED,

Thank you for your FOI request to our office. Please find a response to your email of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 below. We apologise that this was not sent by the deadline of 2<sup>nd</sup> December and realise that this breaches the 20 working day limit for FOI requests.

For ease, we have grouped some of your questions together.

*1. What central data does the National Guardian hold on speaking up to the National Guardian by the staff of NHS trusts?*

*2. Is there a central database/spreadsheet which holds this information?*

*If so, what are the names of the columns and rows in this database/ spreadsheet?*

Any enquiries into the National Guardian's Office are recorded internally as per our organisation's privacy policy which can be found [here](#). Throughout the duration of the office, our records system for recording enquiries has changed. Where previously files were stored individually, from 2018 we have a central spreadsheet that records enquiries into the office.

Please find below the columns used for the spreadsheet below. All enquiries are recorded on this spreadsheet to ensure timely responses. Please note that not all columns may be used, depending on the information given by the enquirer etc.

Name of person	Organisation	Position/Type of contact (FTSUG, worker etc)	Date in	20 working day response date	Date responded	Response
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*3. Please disclose the total number of staff from NHS trusts who have made speaking up disclosures to the National Guardian, since the inception of the Office.*

The total number of individuals speaking up from NHS Trusts since April 2016 (when our records were set up) to date is: **223**. Please note, this also includes individuals who have spoken up without revealing the name of the NHS Trust, and also NHS Trusts that may no longer be in operation due to local mergers etc.

*4. Does the National Guardian hold central data on whether the NHS trust staff who made these disclosures to the National Guardian, also indicated that they had experienced detriment as a result of speaking up?*

*If so, please disclose the total number of these staff who reported that they experienced detriment.*

The central record held by the office does not record whether an individual has indicated they had experienced detriment as a result of speaking up. However, as part of our role as a Prescribed Person, we do record and report on the number of 'qualifying disclosures' the office has received in each year. These reports can be found on our website [here](#).

*5. Does the National Guardian hold data on the range in the number of speaking up disclosures to the National Guardian, made by staff from different NHS trusts?*

*If so, please give the lowest and the highest number of staff speaking up disclosures for NHS trusts since the inception of the Office.*

We can confirm that the lowest number of workers speaking up regarding an individual NHS Trust since April 2016 is **0** and the highest number of workers speaking up regarding an individual NHS Trust since April 2016 is **5**. Please note that the number of individuals that spoke up without revealing the name of the Trust is **20**.

*6. Does the National Guardian hold central data on how many of the disclosures by NHS trust staff to the National Guardian related to patient safety?*

*If so, please disclose the total number of speaking up disclosures received which related to patient safety, since the inception of the Office.*

The central record held by our office does not specifically record whether a speaking up matter relates to patient safety. However, as mentioned above, we do report on the number of qualifying disclosures received as part of our role as a Prescribed Person.

*7. Please disclose the total number of staff from the following NHS trusts who made speaking up disclosures to the National Guardian since the inception of the Office:*

To ensure confidentiality is maintained when the number of individuals speaking up regarding the following NHS Trusts is 5 or under, we use the range 0-5. We consider that where numbers are 5 or lower there is a reasonable risk that public disclosure under FOIA would lead to the reidentification of individuals. This data is therefore withheld in accordance with section 40(1) of FOIA.

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

**0 - 5**

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

**0 - 5**

North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (and predecessor bodies)

**0 - 5**

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

**0 - 5**

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

**0 - 5**

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**0 - 5**

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

**0 - 5**

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust

**0 - 5**

### **Advice and assistance**

Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (and in accordance with the section 45 code of practice) we have a duty to provide you with reasonable advice and assistance.

If you need any independent advice about individual's rights under information legislation you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

The ICO is the UK's independent authority set up to uphold information rights in the public interest, promoting openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals. The contact details for the ICO are detailed below.

There is useful information on the ICO website explaining the rights of individuals: [www.ico.org.uk/your-data-matters](http://www.ico.org.uk/your-data-matters).

### **NGO Internal Review procedure**

If you are not satisfied with our handling of your request, then you may request an internal review.

Please clearly indicate that you wish for a review to be conducted and state the reason(s) for requesting the review.

Please note that it is usual practice to accept a request for an internal review within 40 working days from the date of this response. The FOIA code of practice advises that public authorities are not obliged to accept internal reviews after this date.

Please be aware that the review process will focus upon our handling of your request and whether the NGO have complied with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The internal review process should not be used to raise concerns about the remit or processes of the NGO.

To request a review please contact:

**Post:** Information Access  
Care Quality Commission  
Citygate  
Gallowgate  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 4PA

**E-mail:** [information.access@cqc.org.uk](mailto:information.access@cqc.org.uk)

Further rights of appeal exist to the Information Commissioner's Office under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 once the internal appeals process has been exhausted.

The contact details are:

**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 5AF

**Telephone:** 0303 123 1113

**Website:** [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Kind regards,

Ellie Staite (She/her)  
Correspondence, Accountability and Governance Manager  
National Guardian's Office  
REDACTED  
0191 249 4400 (between 10am – 2pm)  
<https://www.nationalguardian.org.uk/>

Please find our Privacy Statement [here](#)

**From:** REDACTED

**Sent:** 07 November 2022 10:47

**To:** National Guardian's Office <REDACTED>

**Subject:** FOI Request: Disclosures to the National Guardian by NHS Trust staff

Dear Sir,

1. What central data does the National Guardian hold on speaking up to the National Guardian by the staff of NHS trusts?

2. Is there a central database/spreadsheet which holds this information?

If so, what are the names of the columns and rows in this database/spreadsheet?

3. Please disclose the total number of staff from NHS trusts who have made speaking up disclosures to the National Guardian, since the inception of the Office.

4. Does the National Guardian hold central data on whether the NHS trust staff who made these disclosures to the National Guardian, also indicated that they had experienced detriment as a result of speaking up?

If so, please disclose the total number of these staff who reported that they experienced detriment.

5. Does the National Guardian hold data on the range in the number of speaking up disclosures to the National Guardian, made by staff from different NHS trusts?

If so, please give the lowest and the highest number of staff speaking up disclosures for NHS trusts since the inception of the Office.

6. Does the National Guardian hold central data on how many of the disclosures by NHS trust staff to the National Guardian related to patient safety?

If so, please disclose the total number of speaking up disclosures received which related to patient safety, since the inception of the Office.

7. Please disclose the total number of staff from the following NHS trusts who made speaking up disclosures to the National Guardian since the inception of the Office:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust

West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (and predecessor bodies)

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust

Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

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