

FOI 3263

18th August 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

What is the average length of time (in weeks or months) that a nurse is suspended on full pay?

If possible, please provide this information broken down by calendar year for the past five years (2020 to 2024 inclusive).

Response:

Calendar Year	Average length of time (in weeks) that a nurse is suspended on full pay
2020	34
2021	22
2022	12
2023	9
2024	4

Please provide a breakdown of the reasons for these suspensions (e.g. clinical practice concerns, misconduct, criminal investigation, safeguarding issues, etc.), including either the number or percentage of cases that fall into each category. Again, if available, please break this down by year.

Response:

Reasons for these Suspensions 2020	
Misconduct	50%
Clinical practice concerns	50%

Reasons for these Suspensions 2021	
Misconduct / Criminal investigation	20%
Misconduct	40%
Safeguarding issues / Criminal investigation	20%
Clinical practice concerns	20%

Reasons for these Suspensions 2022	
Misconduct / Criminal investigation	25%
Misconduct	75%

Reasons for these Suspensions 2023	
Misconduct / Criminal investigation	33%
Misconduct	17%
Safeguarding issues / Criminal investigation	17%
Clinical practice concerns	33%

Reasons for these Suspensions 2024	
Misconduct / Criminal investigation	25%
Misconduct	25%
Safeguarding issues / Criminal investigation	50%

Please provide any relevant internal policy or procedural documents used by the Trust to guide the suspension of nursing staff, particularly regarding the management of suspension duration and the review process.

Response:

Please see attached document.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net