

FOI 3793

16th June 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to inappropriate access to patient medical records by staff members within the Trust. Please provide, for the past five financial years:

The number of incidents reported involving staff accessing patient medical records without appropriate authorisation or legitimate clinical reason.

Response:

Please refer to the below table for the number of incidences of confirmed inappropriate access as recorded on the Trust Data Incident Register, based on the reports from the Adverse Incident Management System.

Year	Number of Incidents
2021 - 2022	<5
2022 - 2023	<5
2023 -2024	<5
2024 -2025	7
2025 -2026	<5

1. The number of staff disciplined in relation to inappropriate access to patient records.

Response:

Financial Year	Number of Staff / Cases
2021 – 2022	0
2022 – 2023	<5
2023 – 2024	<5
2024 – 2025	5
2025 - 2026	<5
2026 – Present	0

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the exact figures from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018

2. The categories of disciplinary action taken (for example: warning, suspension, dismissal).

Response:

Financial Year	Number of Staff / Cases	No Action	Informal Action	Formal Warning	Final Written Warning	Dismissal
2021 – 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022 – 2023	<5	0	0	0	0	<5
2023 – 2024	<5	0	<5	0	0	0
2024 – 2025	5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5
2025 - 2026	<5	0	0	0	<5	0
2026 – Present	0					

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4. The number of incidents referred to professional regulatory bodies or law enforcement.

Response:

Financial Year	Number of Staff / Cases	Referred to Professional Regulatory Bodies or Law Enforcement
2021 – 2022	0	0
2022 – 2023	<5	0
2023 – 2024	<5	0
2024 – 2025	5	<5
2025 - 2026	<5	<5
2026 – Present	0	

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5. The number of data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner's Office relating to unauthorised access to medical records.**Response:**

All incidents of inappropriate access to patient records are subject to a formal review and risk assessment in line with the Trust's incident management procedures.

As part of this process, each incident is assessed to determine the nature and severity of the breach, including the level of risk to individuals' rights and freedoms.

Only those incidents that meet the relevant reporting threshold are notified to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Incidents that do not meet this threshold are managed locally, with appropriate action taken to address the issue and mitigate any risks.

During the timeframe requested 6 incidents relating to inappropriate access to records were reported to the ICO.

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