

FOI 2170

20 February 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1. How many concerns have been raised by staff - either trust or agency staff - about unsafe patient care from January 2023 to date?

Response:

The Southern HSC Trust record formal concerns raised under the Trust's 'Your Right to Raise a Concern (Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure. Other concerns may be raised informally via line management which are not centrally captured.

The Human Resources & Organisational Development Directorate are the lead directorate for whistleblowing concerns. From 1 January 2023 to date, we have received 4 concerns from staff pertaining to unsafe patient care in accordance with the Trust's Your Right to Raise a Concern (Whistleblowing) Policy.

Question 2. In each case which hospital/healthcare setting and department did the concern relate to?

Response:

The 4 concerns relate to:

- 3 x Craigavon Area Hospital
- 1 x Lurgan Hospital

These relate to the following: Medicine & Unscheduled Care Directorate, Surgery & Clinical Services Directorate & Adult Community Services Directorate)

Question 3. What was the nature of each concern? e.g. patient being treated on corridor?

Response:

The 4 concerns relate to:

- Safe staffing levels, skill mix, ward supervision.
- Issue regarding handover and induction for agency worker leading to safety concerns for patients.
- Issue regarding handover and induction for agency worker leading to safety concerns for patients.
- Concern from agency worker in respect of medication for patient.

Question 4. Action taken to address concern raised?

Response:

In line with our 'Your Right to Raise a Concern (Whistleblowing) Policy and Procedure, all 4 concerns are under investigation. At present all remain open and not yet concluded. As with all concerns, consideration is given to protection arrangements needing to be in place while investigations are on-going.

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