

Ref. No: 1022  
Date: 17/06/24  
Subject: Sexual Assaults

## REQUEST

1. Number of reported sexual assault incidents where the victim was aged 60 or over and alleged perpetrator was a staff member (including agency staff)?
2. How many sexual safety incidents has the Trust recorded where the alleged victim was a patient aged 60 or over and the alleged perpetrator was a staff member (including agency staff)? Please provide figures for:
  - April 2021 to the end of March 2024 (total)
  - 2021-22
  - 2022-23
  - 2023-24
3. Do you have a Sexual Safety policy in place that covers assaults on patients by staff?
4. Does the policy also explicitly address the sexual abuse of older people?
5. Have staff received training on dealing with sexual abuse against people with dementia?
6. What training have staff received on dealing with sexual abuse against people with dementia?
7. Is this training mandatory for staff dealing with patients with dementia?
8. If your hospital has incidents recorded, please provide more information:
  - a. Sex of victims?

No. Male	No. Female	No. Other

**b. Sex of alleged perpetrator?**

No. Male	No. Female	No. Other

**c. Role(s) of alleged perpetrators?**

HCA	Nursing Staff	Surgeon	Anaesthetist	Other

**d. Locations of alleged incidents (pls specify number for each incident)?**

Same Sex Ward	Single Sex Ward	Theatre	Public Area	Other

**e. Was incident reported to the police (please specify number for each incident)? If not reported, please give reasons for this.**

Yes	No

**f. Please indicate outcome of any police investigations, if known?**

**g. Was a referral made to the local Sexual Assault Referral Centre? (please specify number for each incident)?**

Yes	No

**h. Was the victim signposted to sexual violence support services (please specify number for each incident)?**

Yes	No

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

**1. Number of reported sexual assault incidents where the victim was aged 60 or over and alleged perpetrator was a staff member (including agency staff)?**

6 incidents

**2. How many sexual safety incidents has the Trust recorded where the alleged victim was a patient aged 60 or over and the alleged perpetrator was a staff member (including agency staff)? Please provide figures for:**

Financial Year	No. Incidents
2021/22	<5
2022/23	<5
2023/24	<5

Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

**3. Do you have a Sexual Safety policy in place that covers assaults on patients by staff?**

The following are in place:

- Management of allegations policy.
- Safeguarding adult and children policies.
- The Trust is also signed up and working towards the standards set out in the NHS Sexual Safety Charter.

**4. Does the policy also explicitly address the sexual abuse of older people?**

The safeguarding adult policy specifically addresses abuse of adults with care and support needs.

**5. Have staff received training on dealing with sexual abuse against people with dementia?**

Staff receive mandatory adult safeguarding training which covers all elements of abuse plus mandatory dementia training.

**6. What training have staff received on dealing with sexual abuse against people with dementia?**

Training is not specific for this issue but is captured in the training as per above.

**7. Is this training mandatory for staff dealing with patients with dementia?**

Safeguarding training and dementia training is mandatory for all Trust staff.

**8. If your hospital has incidents recorded, please provide more information:**

**Sex of victims?**

No. Male	No. Female	No. Other
<5	<5	0

**Sex of alleged perpetrator?**

No. Male	No. Female	No. Other
<5	0	<5

**Role(s) of alleged perpetrators?**

HCA	Nursing Staff	Surgeon	Anaesthetist	Other
<5	0	<5	0	<5

**Locations of alleged incidents (pls specify number for each incident)?**

Same Sex Ward	Single Sex Ward	Theatre	Public Area	Other
0	<5	0	0	<5

**Was incident reported to the police (please specify number for each incident)? If not reported, please give reasons for this.**

Yes	No
<5	<5

**Please indicate outcome of any police investigations, if known?**

All closed with no further action – allegation unfounded.

**Was a referral made to the local Sexual Assault Referral Centre?  
Please specify number for each incident?**

Yes	No
0	6

**Was the victim signposted to sexual violence support services?  
Please specify number for each incident?**

Yes	No
0	6