

Ref. No: 1253
Date: 08/10/24
Subject: Exception reports, 2022/23 and 2023/24

REQUEST

1. Does your Trust use “Exception Reports” that are used by doctors when day-to-day work varies significantly and/or regularly from the agreed work schedule?
2. If so, how many exception reports were logged as raising an immediate safety concern in the a) 2022/23 and b) 2023/24 financial years?
3. With respect only to the financial year 2023/24, please state for each occurrence (a) when the incident took place, (b) which Trust site it related to and (c) provide a detailed, verbatim account of how the doctor described the concern.

RESPONSE

1. Yes
2. A) 7
B) 9
3. A) Please see attached spreadsheet
B) Please see attached spreadsheet

C) Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs

Under Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust may withhold information where, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs.

Dr Peter Williams, Medical Director is the qualified person for the purposes of Section 36(2). Dr Williams’ opinion is that disclosure of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the conduct of public affairs.

It is his opinion that the disclosure of doctor's verbatim account comments from exception reports would likely prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. Specifically, it would inhibit the free and frank exchange of views regarding the recording of incidents in the future.

As a qualified exemption, we can confirm that we have considered whether it would be in the public interest to provide the information ahead of the scheduled publication date, and in this instance have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.