

Ref. No: 2271  
Date: 08/01/26  
Subject: sexual misconduct by Trust staff

## REQUEST

1. I would like the numbers per year, going back to 1980/81.
2. If that exceeds the FOI time limit, please send the numbers, by year, going back to 2000/01.
3. If that exceeds the FOI time limit, please send the numbers, by year, for the past ten full financial years, so starting with 2015/16.
4. If that exceeds the FOI time limit, please send the numbers, by year, for the past five financial years, so starting with 2021/22.

## RESPONSE

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

Following a thorough assessment, we regret to inform you that Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust are unable to comply with your request, as doing so would exceed the cost limit set out under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit, which is currently set at £450 for NHS organisations. This equates to 18 hours of staff time, calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In this case, fulfilling your request would require checking individual patients records and the Trust has estimated this time to be in excess of 505 hours. This involves locating, retrieving, and extracting the relevant information. This exceeds the 18-hour threshold, even with reasonable efforts to narrow the scope.

We are therefore applying Section 12 of the Act and will not be proceeding with the request in its current form.