

Ref. No: 0762
Date: 07/03/24
Subject: Freedom of Information

REQUEST

For the last 3 tax year's (23/22, 22/21, 21/20) please provide the total cost of:

1. Total number of staff hired with responsibility for freedom of information requests, (full time equivalent).
2. Total salary costs for staff with responsibility for freedom of information requests.
3. Total for all other costs associated with handling freedom of information requests.
4. Total number of freedom of information requests received, and total number responded with the requested information.

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 1st 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. Total number of staff hired with responsibility for freedom of information requests, (full time equivalent).

The Trust has a Freedom of Information Officer (Band 4, 0.91 WTE) who is responsible solely for the administration of FOI requests. Additionally, members of the Trust's Information Governance Department support the administration of FOI requests, this includes:

- Information Governance Officers (Band 5) providing cover for the Freedom of Information Officer during periods of absence.
- Senior Information Governance Officers (Band 6) providing oversight of all responses and applying exemptions, where applicable.

2. Total salary costs for staff with responsibility for freedom of information requests.

Please refer to the bands provided in response to question 1.

3. Total for all other costs associated with handling freedom of information requests.

Nil

4. Total number of freedom of information requests received, and total number responded with the requested information.

Financial Year	No. Received	No. Responded
2020/21	891	865
2021/22	1,224	1,155
2022/23	1,329	1,286