



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-684

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear,

I am writing in response to your email dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Speak up Guardians.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 When did the Trust first appoint a Freedom To Speak Up Guardian, champion, ambassador or equivalent?**

A1 November 2015

**Q2 How many individuals currently hold such posts within the Trust?**

A2 The Freedom to Speak up Guardian is supported by two Associate Freedom to Speak Up Guardians and 20 Employee Support Advisors

**Q3 Please give the professional backgrounds and seniority of all the Freedom To Speak Up Guardians or equivalent who have ever been appointed**

A3 Please see below:

- Freedom to speak up guardian – Manager, Administrative and Clerical
- Associate Freedom to speak up guardian – Director, Nursing
- Associate Freedom to speak up guardian – Consultant, Medical and Dental

**Q4 Is there ring fenced time for these posts, and if so what is the total WTE?**

A4 There is not a dedicated ring fenced time for the Associate Freedom to Speak Up Guardians. The Freedom to Speak up Guardian works 27.5 hours per week in their role as Raising Concerns and Workforce Equality Manager

**Q5 Please advise if any Freedom To Speak Up Guardians have stepped down, and if so, how long were they in post as Freedom To Speak Up Guardians?**

A5 None

- Q6 Please provide by, financial year, a spreadsheet which gives the number, broad nature of concerns raised with your Freedom To Speak Up Guardian(s) or equivalent, and the outcome.**
- A6 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding the above, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website. Please refer to the quarterly raising concerns reports included within UHNM Trust Board papers published on the Trust Website: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/TrustBoardPapers/Pages/TrustBoardPapers.aspx>
- Q7 Please advise how many times your Freedom To Speak Up Guardian(s) or equivalent have escalated any whistleblowing case issues to:**
- i. the National Guardian**
  - ii. the Care Quality Commission**
- A7 None to both of the above

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle  
**Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance**