

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2024.505
Released – 15 April 2024

Thank you for your email dated 28 March 2024 requesting information regarding incidents of racism and racist abuse.

Please find detailed below a summary of your original request together with our response.

Original request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

- ***Reported incidents of racism/racist abuse (of any type, e.g verbal, physical) by patients against staff at your trust, broken down by month, from the dates 31 January 2014 - 31 January 2024.***
- ***Reported incidents of racism/racist abuse (of any type, e.g verbal, physical) by staff against staff, broken down by month, from the dates 31 January 2014 - 31 January 2024.***

Our incident reporting system does not have category relating specifically to racism/racist abuse, therefore we have searched our incidents to identify where “racism” or “racist” was included in the description.

Due to the low numbers of racism or racial abuse cases reported within the trust, we are withholding the breakdown by month under Section 40(2) in conjunction with Section 40(3A)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which relates to ‘Personal Information’.

An excerpt of the relevant Freedom of Information legislation can be found below:

Section 40 – Personal information

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

- (a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and*
- (b) either the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.*

(3A) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act

- (a) would contravene any of the data protection principles, or*
- (b) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.*

Using the ICO’s motivated intruder test outlined in the anonymisation code of practice, I feel that:

- a) releasing the month and year an incident of racial abuse occurred would be likely to result in the re-identification of an individual; and
- b) someone could have the motivation to carry out re-identification.

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick
Trust HQ Trinity House, 110-120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Park, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AZ

We have instead provided below a breakdown by year of the number of incidents recorded where the term “racism” or “racist” has been included in the description:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Incidents of abuse by patients against staff including the terms racism or racist	1	None	5	None	3	3	None	2	None	2	None
Incidents of abuse by staff against staff including the terms racism or racist	None	None	None	None	2	None	2	4	3	3	None