

16 January 2023

## **NURSING AT MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL**

**1) How much money has the Belfast Trust paid to nursing agency companies that have Mr Nicholas Paul Poturicich registered as the Responsible Individual since 2018?**

In accordance with the FOI Act 2000, we cannot fulfill this part of your request, as this information is exempt under Section 40(2) personal information relating to a third party. This is deemed to be personal information about another individual. Disclosure would breach one or more of the principles of the UK GDPR. The FOI Act provides access to Corporate information and not information relating to an individual person.

**2) How many times since 2020 have agency nurses been deemed to be alleged perpetrators of abuse of a vulnerable adult at Muckamore Abbey Hospital?**

The trust does not differentiate between allegations between Trust staff and Agency staff when an allegation or adult safeguarding concern is raised

**3) How do the Belfast Trust check to see if the agency nurses recruited to work in Muckamore have received training in the NI adult safeguarding policies and procedures?**

The Belfast Health and Social care trust have contracts with a number of agencies to provide staff, the contract states this training as a requirement and evidence is provided by the agency.

**4) How many occasions since 2020 have agency nurses working in Muckamore Abbey Hospital been found to be working excessive hours without a break ?**

**RQIA was concerned this year that an agency had failed to ensure that nursing staff at Muckamore had sufficient rest periods to help ensure that they were physically and mentally fit to work which had the potential to adversely affect the quality of care provided to patients.**

**Did this affect the quality of care to patients at Muckamore Abbey Hospital?**

The BHSCT and contracted agencies have to be responsible to our workforce however we are aware that some staff were working longer hours to support the hospital due to overall staff shortages. This has now ceased with additional staff brought in and closer monitoring. There has been no demonstrated reduction in quality of care.

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**5) What are the circumstances that would lead to agency nurses in Muckamore Abbey Hospital to work excessive hours without a break as discovered this year by the RQIA?**

Given the uncertainty around the future of the hospital site and the context of a PSNI investigation and a public enquiry there is a difficulty recruiting staff both from agencies or to substantive posts this led to gaps in staffing and some staff worked longer hours to assist in covering the gaps.

**6) How many nurses working at Muckamore Abbey Hospital have the Belfast Trust referred to the NMC since 2020?**

The BHSCT have referred 8 Agency nurses to the NMC since 2020