

4 March 2024

Concerns Raised by Staff about Unsafe Patient Care

1. How many concerns have been raised by staff - either Trust or agency staff - about unsafe patient care from January 2023 to date?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust record formal concerns raised under the Trust's 'Your Right to Raise a Concern (Whistleblowing) Policy'. Other concerns may be raised informally, via line management, which are not centrally captured.

From 1 January 2023 to date, we have received 22 concerns from staff pertaining to patient safety under the Trust's Your Right to Raise a Concern (Whistleblowing) Policy.

2. In each case, which hospital/healthcare setting and department did the concern relate to?

The 22 concerns relate to:

- 14 x Royal Victoria Hospital
- 3 x Nursing Homes
- 1 x Knockbracken
- 1 x Belfast City Hospital
- 2 x Regional Emergency Social Work
- 1 x Mental Health Facility

3. What was the nature of each concern (e.g. patient being treated on corridor)?

The nature of the 22 concerns raised relate to the following:

- Safe staffing levels, skill mix, ward supervision
- Boarding of patients on certain wards
- Lack of training in delivery of medication
- Shortage of beds/staff and overcrowding within A&E Department
- Alleged drug dealing on hospital site
- Quality of training
- Thoroughness of assessment of trainees for certain health professionals
- Concerns around an alleged medical trial
- Data recording
- Staff members sleeping whilst on night duty
- Concerns around the fitness of certain individuals for a position successfully applied for
- Belfast HSC Trust and Regional Winter Plan 23/24
- Lack of mental health beds – regional emergency social work

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4. Action taken to address concern raised?

In line with our 'Your Right to Raise a Concern (Whistleblowing) Policy and Procedure, all 22 concerns were assessed by the Senior Manager for Whistleblowing and preliminary enquiries conducted, followed by formal internal or external investigation as deemed necessary/appropriate.

Any action considered immediately necessary to ensure patient safety is taken ahead of the conclusion of an investigation.