

Whistleblowing and Level 5 / McBride-Hill engagement funnel

1. For each financial year 2021/22 to 2025/26, the number of whistleblowing / raising-concerns disclosures received, closed, upheld, partially upheld, not upheld, withdrawn and unresolved, if held.

Year	Concerns received	Closed	Remained ongoing
2021/2022	35	25	10
2022/2023	40	27	13
2023/2024	29	17	12
2024/2025	34	20	14
2025/2026	60	7	53

There is no further breakdown for upheld, partially upheld, not upheld, or withdrawn outcomes. Information is not recorded to the level of detail required and is not readily available.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information to the level of detail requested.

2. For each year, the average and median time to closure in working days, if held.

The timescales recorded by the Whistleblowing Team do not always reflect the actual time taken to conclude a case. This is due to both limited resources within the team and the fact that concerns are often progressed by other services. The closure date recorded therefore reflects the date the case was formally closed by the Whistleblowing Team, rather than the date the concern/case was completed.

Year	As per Q1. cases received and closed	Average days to close	Median time to close
1/4/21 - 31/3/22	25	117	47
1/4/22 - 31/3/23	27	82	32
1/4/23 - 31/3/24	17	110	23

1/4/24 - 31/3/25	20	65	65
1/4/25 - 31/3/26	7	38	33

3. For each year, the number of concerns involving alleged retaliation, detriment, bullying, confidentiality concerns or fear of speaking up, if held.

The number of cases in each financial year is fewer than five. A more detailed breakdown cannot be provided as to provide this level of information would reduce numbers to discoverable limits where the patients could be identifiable.

This is exempt from release under section 40(2) Personal Information relating to a third party, of the FOI Act.

Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

4. The anonymised outcome categories used to classify closed cases.

No information held within the available records.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested.

5. How many staff responded to the workplace culture / McBride-Hill / Level 5 survey or equivalent engagement exercise?

6. How many respondents provided contact details or requested further engagement?

7. How many respondents who provided contact details were contacted individually, invited to interview, triaged, referred elsewhere, or closed with no contact? Please provide any high-level categories held.

8. The average, median and longest times from contact request to first follow-up contact, if held.

9. Were any complaints, concerns or objections received about the Level 5 intervention measures, McBride-Hill process, staff survey design, non-

contact, confidentiality, or exclusion from follow-up? Numbers and high-level categories only.

The Trust does not hold this information as requested in Q5-9. The McBride-Hill report was commissioned by the Department of Health (DoH) and therefore should be responded by them, they can be contacted by email FOI@health-ni.gov.uk