

20 April 2023

## **Adult Safeguarding at Muckamore Abbey Hospital**

**I would like information relating to Muckamore Abbey Hospital.**

**The list of information**

**1\*\* The number adult safeguarding allegations at Muckamore Abbey Hospital since 2016**

**2\*\* The number of adult safeguarding investigations at Muckamore Abbey Hospital since 2016?**

**Provide whether investigation is Single Agency or Joint Protocol**

**3\*\* The number of times a patient has been abused at Muckamore Abbey Hospital before 2017 .**

**I would like the data for however early back your records or reports show.**

**4\*\* The number of adverse Incidents and serious adverse incidents at Muckamore Abbey Hospital since 2016**

**5\*\* The number of employees have suspended , dismissed or given warnings at Muckamore since 2016.**

**6\*\* All emails , letters and noted sent and received by Chief Executive, Chairman and Directors with responsibility for Muckamore from 2016 that relate in any way to Adult Safeguarding at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.**

### **Response**

This information would be exempt under S30 and S 31 of the FOI Act 2000

#### Section 30: Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities

The section 30 exemption applies to a specific category of information that a public authority currently holds or has ever held for the purposes of criminal investigations. It also applies to information obtained in certain other types of investigations, if it relates to obtaining information from confidential sources.

#### Section 31: Law Enforcement

(1) provides an exemption for information which if its disclosure under the FOI Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

(g) the exercise by any public authority of its functions for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2),

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The Trust considers the relevant purposes specified in subsection (2) are as follows:

(c) the purpose of ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise.

(j) the purpose of protecting persons other than persons at work against risk to health or safety arising out of or in connection with the actions of persons at work.

As your questions relate to matters that are the subject of both a police inquiry and a public inquiry, I trust you will understand that it would not be appropriate for the Belfast Trust to provide a detailed response to your FOI at this point in time. Adult safeguarding processes are in place.

In line with Safeguarding policy appropriate investigations are underway investigation by the police and the Belfast Trust. All documentation sought by the MAH Inquiry is being provided to it through an extensive disclosure process.

The processes for keeping patients safe are extensive, and are the subject of reports from the RQIA, which are published on the RQIA website. The adequacy of the processes will also be subject to scrutiny from the MAH Inquiry.

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We can however disclose the information to point 5:

The number of employees have suspended, dismissed or given warnings at Muckamore since 2016.

The Trust has made the decision to place **93** staff on Precautionary Suspension. A total of **11** staff have been dismissed following a disciplinary hearing  
A total of **6** staff have received a sanction following a disciplinary process.