

05 November 2024

Muckamore Abbey Hospital Safety Reports, Adverse Incidents, Allegations of Abuse Including Cranfield & Donegore Wards

I would like a copy of:

A- All weekly safety reports for Muckamore in the year 2023 and 2024.

The information contained in these reports pertains to individuals residing at Muckamore Abbey Hospital and given the small numbers during that time period we are unable to disclose the reports. To do so has the potential to make people personally identifiable or has the potential be harmful to individuals. These are therefore exempt from release under Section 40(2) and Section 38 of the FOI legislation. You can read more about each below:

[Section 40 and Regulation 13 – personal information | ICO](#)

In accordance with the FOI Act 2000, we cannot fulfill this element 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 other individuals. 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.

This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test

[Section 38 – Health and safety | ICO](#)

Section 38 provides an exemption from disclosing information if it would endanger any individual

Section 38(1)(a) focuses on endangerment to any individual's physical or mental health.

This is a qualified exemption and requires a public interest test

The outcome of the above public interest test is that it would not be in the public interest to provide the information requested at point A. In reaching this decision to withhold some of the information requested, the Trust has considered fully its commitment to ensuring openness and transparency, where reasonably practicable, in all its activities.

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B- How many adverse incidents at Muckamore in 2020-2024

There was **13,598** incidents for the period 01/01/2020 to 29/10/2024.

C- How many allegations of abuse of vulnerable adults at Muckamore (APP1 or ASP1) 2020-2024 and how many of these resulted in the allegation being substantiated?

This information is exempt from release under Section 31 of the FOI legislation which relates to law enforcement.

The Muckamore Abbey Hospital Public Inquiry is a statutory inquiry established under the Inquiries Act 2005, to examine the issue of abuse of patients at Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) and to determine why the abuse happened and the range of circumstances that allowed it to happen. The purpose of the Inquiry is to ensure that such abuse does not occur again at MAH or any other institution in Northern Ireland which provides similar services.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption. That is, it is subject to the public interest test. As the information requested will be considered by the MAH Inquiry, prejudice would be caused by placing the information you have requested into the public domain at this time, and it would not be in the public interest to do so.

You can read more about Section 31 here:

[Law enforcement - section 31 | ICO](#)

A public interest has been conducted and the outcome is that it would not be in the public interest to provide the information requested in relation to this question.

In reaching this decision to withhold the information requested, the Trust has considered fully its commitment to ensuring openness and transparency, where reasonably practicable, in all its activities.

[Section 40 and Regulation 13 – personal information | ICO](#)

In accordance with the FOI Act 2000, given the small numbers of patients and reduced numbers of staff in 2000-2004 we cannot fulfill this element 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 other individuals. 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.

This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test

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D- In September 2014 Muckamore Cranfield ICU ward was able to tell RQIA that there was 37 substantiated allegations of abuse at Cranfield ICU ward in a period of 12 months

What action did the Belfast Trust take in relation to the large number of substantiated allegations of abuse?

I refer to the report titled "RQIA Mental Health and Learning Disability Unannounced Inspection - Cranfield ICU, Muckamore Abbey Hospital - Belfast Health & Social Care Trust - 25 & 26 September 2014." On page 57 of that report, there is a summary table in which the Belfast Trust was asked as follows: *"Within the last 12 months, please confirm the number of investigations undertaken on the ward and their outcomes."* In that table the Belfast Trust confirmed to the RQIA that there was a total of 39 Adult Protection Investigations carried out. Of those 39 investigations, 37 found the allegations that gave rise to the investigation to have been substantiated, 2 were found to be unsubstantiated, and there were 0 (zero) "on-going" or outstanding allegations that required investigation. In other words, the report confirms that the Belfast Trust had carried out an Adult Protection Investigation in respect of every allegation of harm that it was aware of, whether that was an allegation of abuse or any other kind of harm, within that period of time.

E - In 2014 there was 32 substantiated allegations of abuse at Donegore ward in Muckamore. (According to RQIA report)

What action did the Belfast Trust take in relation to the large number of substantiated allegations of abuse?

I refer to the report titled "RQIA Mental Health and Learning Disability Unannounced Inspection - Donegore, Muckamore Abbey Hospital - Belfast Health & Social Care Trust – 18 & 19 November 2014" On page 11 of that report, it states: *"Inspectors met with the hospital Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Designated Officer (DO). The DO stated that staff were familiar with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult policy and procedure and were making appropriate referrals in accordance with policy and procedure."*

Inspectors discussed the 32 substantiated allegations with the DO. The DO confirmed that none of the 32 allegations were outstanding. He advised that referrals for safeguarding investigation by ward staff had been promptly completed and that protection plans were put in place. The DO also advised that incidents had been appropriately reviewed in accordance with the trust safeguarding policy and procedure".

In other words, the report confirms that the Belfast Trust had carried out an Adult Protection Investigation in respect of every allegation of harm that it was aware of, whether that was an allegation of abuse or any other kind of harm, within that period of time.