

Ref. No: 165280420  
From: Commercial  
Date: 28/04/20  
Subject: Whistleblowing Data

## REQUEST

1. How many whistleblowing contacts have been raised within the Trust in the following time periods:

March 2019  
April 2019  
March 2020  
April 2020

If possible, please break this down by whether the case was raised with:

- a) The Trust's Freedom to Speak Up Guardian
- b) The Trust's other persons with responsibility for whistleblowing? This could include (but may not be limited to): executive director with responsibility for whistleblowing; non-executive director with responsibility for whistleblowing.

If it isn't possible to break it down in such a fashion, just give the aggregate figures.

If you are unable to give a specific monthly tally for March and/or April 2019, you may provide the total number for the year.

If you are unable to give a specific monthly tally for March and/or April 2020, you may provide the total number for the year to date.

2. Does the Trust hold data about these contacts/cases in a spreadsheet or database? If so, please could you provide a list of the data fields – for clarity, this could include but is not limited to categories such as “type of complaint”, “status of complaint”, etc.

For each item on the list of data fields, please state if the value is to be filled in as a free text field, or a value selected from a drop-down menu. For each of the fields where a value is to be selected from a drop-down menu, please

include the options from the drop-down menu

## **RESPONSE**

“Whistleblowing” is not a term which features in St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust policy on raising concerns.

Details of concerns brought to the Trust are done so in confidence. Therefore the Trust holds that this information is exempt under Section 41(1) of the Freedom of Information Act “information provided in confidence”. It is our view that disclosure of this information would constitute an actionable breach of confidence and so disclosure would also be unlawful under the Act. In these circumstances, Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act confers an absolute exemption on disclosure and there is no public interest test to apply.