

FOI_0741_2022-23 – FOI Request Concerning – Fat Shaming Complaints

Could you please tell me for the calendar year 2021:

A. How many official complaints and PALS concerns has your Trust received from patients alleging they had been discriminated against or badly treated by a member of staff because of their being overweight or obese?

August 2021 = 1

October 2021 = 1

Total of 2 in 2021

Please do this by searching for complaints containing any of the words "weight", "fat", "obese", "overweight" and "bariatric" and filtering these to find those that refer to allegedly fat-shaming comments or actions made by a member of staff.

B. Can you select the first five such complaints from 2021 and provide me with the following details:

1. What type of staff member was the complaint levelled against? E.g. healthcare assistant, junior doctor, consultant, cleaner, kitchen staff?

Clinical Staff

2. Please quote the words allegedly used by hospital staff or summarise the offending action?

Patient was asked if she was pregnant, when she said 'no' staff member asked if she had a problem with her hips.

Parent told that baby was overweight without seeing baby; staff said they were concerned, and baby would need intervention in case she became obese.

3. Please tell me what, if any, action was taken by your trust in response to these five sample complaints from the beginning of 2021?

Member of staff immediately apologised for the distress caused by asking if patient was pregnant, learning taken, and apology given.

Communication training given to staff member covering sensitive and effective techniques when discussing concerns with parents.