

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/20/449**

**Whistleblowing**

**Request Details**

- 1. Please provide the total number of whistleblowing concerns received between 01/03/2019 and 31/08/2019 by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.**

2

- 2. Please provide the total number of whistleblowing concerns received between 01/03/2020 and 31/08/2020 by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.**

11

- 3. Please provide the following information for each whistleblowing concern received by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board between 01/03/2020 and 31/08/2020:**

- a. A brief summary of the whistleblowing concern.**

- b. Whether any action was taken following the concern, and if so, a brief description of the action taken.**

- c. If the person provided the information anonymously (i.e. they did not provide you with their name and/or contact details) please indicate this.**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) is withholding the information sought as it believes the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(g) of the FOIA. Section 31(1)(g) exempts information from disclosure when its disclosure would prejudice the exercise of a public authority's functions for any purpose listed in Section 32(2) of the FOIA. Section 32(2)(j) of the FOIA covers:

‘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.’

Accordingly, the UHB believes disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the exercise by the UHB of its function to protect the health and safety of patients against risks posed by the delivery of healthcare services. Section 45(1) of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (‘HCSA 2003’) places a duty on all NHS bodies to:

“put in place arrangements for the purposes of monitoring and improving the quality of that health care provided by and for that body”.

The UHB’s Whistleblowing procedure aims to encourage staff to discuss concerns and safety issues as soon as possible. Information provided under this procedure is disclosed in

confidence and there is an expectation from staff that their confidentiality will be respected. Disclosure of information relating to individual concerns is likely to discourage individual staff members from raising concerns in the future due to a lack of assurance that details of the disclosure will be treated with confidence. Reluctance on the part of staff to raise concerns would be likely to prejudice the UHB's exercise of its statutory duty to monitor and improve the quality of healthcare provided by its services.

The UHB also believes there to be applicable exemption to disclosure under Section 40(2) and Section 41 of the FOIA (relating to 'Personal information' and 'Information provided in confidence, respectively).

However, the UHB believes it would be possible to disclose some high-level information without prejudicing the stated functions. Please find the following disclosable information:

- Of the eleven concerns raised during this time period:
  - Four related to bullying
  - Two related to PPE
  - One related to social distancing
  - One related to staffing levels
  - One related to clinical ethics
  - One related to working conditions
  - One remains too specific for disclosure
  
- Of the eleven concerns raised during this time period, four concerns were reported by named individuals and seven were reported anonymously.