



**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: UHB 19-605**

11 October 2019

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

1. Can you please tell me for 2017 and 2018 from how many patients medical evidence has been collected at sexual assault referral centre (SARC) run by your Trust.

For calendar year (January to December) the number of people attending for face to face care and medical examination are:

2017: 321

2018: 329

Alternatively for financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March):

2016-2017: 326

2017-2018: 318

There is an assumption that forensic samples of some kind were taken in each case but not guaranteed without individual inspection of each client's case record which will take the Trust more than 18 hours to complete and it is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. Please tell me how many of the patients from which forensic evidence has been collected have so far not chosen to involve the police.

The Trust can only report on how many presented as non-police referrals. To identify those that then converted to police cases will take the Trust more than 18 hours to complete and it is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In the last 6 months (April to Sept 2019) 38/222 clients were self or non-police referrals

(17%)

3. Finally, please tell me what your SARC's policy is re. storage of forensic evidence not acted upon. How many years will evidence be stored before it is discarded?

Current policy as of March 2017 (and each self-referral provides consent for this) is to retain samples for 2 years or until the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday which ever period is longer. This can be extended at the client's request if they contact us near the destruction date.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Director of Corporate Governance  
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

#### Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**FOI Team**  
**UH Bristol NHS Foundation Trust**