

27 February 2018

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London SE1 8UG

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E: nhsi.enquiries@nhs.net
W: improvement.nhs.uk

By email

Dear [REDACTED],

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”)

I refer to your email of **1 February 2018** in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement. Since 1 April 2016, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority are operating as an integrated organisation known as NHS Improvement. For the purposes of this decision, NHS Improvement means Monitor and the TDA.

Your request

You made the following request:

“Whistleblower panel members on the employment support scheme

Please advise:

- 1) How many whistleblowers asked to be considered for panel membership on the whistleblower employment support scheme?*
- 2) How many whistleblowers were accepted for training and how many have received training?*
- 3) Please advise of the Gender breakdown of whistleblower panellists in the current pool.*
- 4) Please advise on the broad professional areas of expertise represented by the whistleblower panellists in the current pool*

eg. - Acute services

- Mental Health Services*
- Commissioning*
- Other*

5) How many whistleblower panellists in the current pool are of

- clinical background
- HR and OD background
- General Management background
- other background

6) How many whistleblower panellists in the current pool are of medical professional background

7) How many whistleblower panellists in the current pool are members of the organisation Patients First

8) How many whistleblower panellists in the current pool are members of the organisation Whistleblowers UK

9) Can NHS Improvement give an Ethnicity breakdown of the whistleblower panellists in its pool?"

Decision

NHS Improvement holds some of the information that you have requested and has decided to release the information that it holds.

Our responses to your questions are set out below and follow the numbering in your request.

Question 1

14 people who asked to be part of the panel membership stated that they had been whistleblowers.

Question 2

All who asked to attend training have been offered training.

Question 3

The current breakdown by gender is:

Female – 33

Male – 13

In relation to whistleblower panellists, the breakdown by gender is:

14 whistleblowers

Female – 10

Male - 4

Question 4

There is a very broad range of professional backgrounds of panel members in the current “pool” including but not limited to, CEOs, Freedom to Speak Up Guardians, nursing, clinical , non-clinical, administration, senior management, consultants (clinical), OD Directors, HR Directors and Assistant Directors, doctors, paediatricians, transformation nurses, mental health practitioners, directors of strategy, midwives, heads of compliance/regulations and unemployed and employed whistleblowers with various NHS experience and backgrounds.

The backgrounds of whistleblowers on the panel membership list include nursing, management, radiography, HR and OD, consultants and Freedom to Speak Up Guardians (some FTSUG have not disclosed previous backgrounds at this stage and some whistleblowers chose to state that they were "whistleblowers" without further background information).

Question 5

NHS Improvement did not ask for this specific breakdown of background only whether clinical or non-clinical. Not all answered the question and most whistleblowers just preferred to indicate whether they were whistleblowers. From the answers submitted:

Clinical: 17

Non-clinical: 10

Whistleblowers: 14

Question 6

NHS Improvement did not ask this specific question.

Question 7

NHS Improvement does not hold this information. NHS Improvement does not ask this question. Panel Members act independently and do not represent any trust, organisations or other support organisations.

Question 8

As per the response to question 7, NHS Improvement does not hold this information.

Question 9

NHS Improvement does not hold this information however the “pool” of current Panel Members includes a wide range of people from different backgrounds.

Review rights

If you consider that your request for information has not been properly handled or if you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within NHS Improvement of the issue or the decision. A senior member of NHS Improvement's staff, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to FOI Request Reviews, NHS Improvement, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to nhsi.foi@nhs.net.

Publication

Please note that this letter will shortly be published on our website. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the FOI Act is disclosed to the public at large. We will, of course, remove your personal information (e.g. your name and contact details) from the version of the letter published on our website to protect your personal information from general disclosure.

Yours sincerely,



Wendy Webster

Employment Support Scheme Manager