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9 April 2026

RE: FOI 7800

Thank you for your email of 20 March 2026 in which you requested the following information:

Doctor/dentist/pharmacist breakdown for the ten-year period: counts of Practitioner Performance Advice cases where the concern was identified as sexual misconduct.

Our Response

NHS Resolution's Practitioner Performance Advice ('the Advice service'), formerly known as National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS), is an advisory body. Our role is to provide expert, impartial advice to healthcare organisations where concerns have been raised about individual practitioners' performance, and work with those involved to resolve these issues. You can find more information about the Advice service here: [Practitioner Performance Advice \(formerly NCAS\) - NHS Resolution](#). Our services are provided primarily to NHS organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In responding to your request, we have provided data relating to practitioners who are the subject of our Advice cases.

Doctor/dentist/pharmacist breakdown for the ten-year period: cases where the concern was identified as sexual misconduct.

To address your request, please see the information in **Table 1** below in respect of cases where we have provided advice about an individual practitioner. These figures represent the number of cases involving each profession, rather than the number of individual practitioners, given that an individual practitioner may be the subject of multiple cases over a period of time.

In the [Insight: Patterns in Practitioner Performance Advice cases including a focus on sexual misconduct concerns](#), footnotes 10 and 11 note the approach taken to gather and present the date in the Insight. Footnote 10 states that 'We acknowledge that the proportion of cases identified by matching key words does not perfectly represent the true number/proportion of sexual misconduct cases'. Using the 'keyword' method, therefore, to provide information broken down by profession (doctor/dentist/pharmacist) would not be appropriate because we did not validate our results considering these dimensions.

To identify the information would require a manual review of individual case files and would take us over the 18-hour threshold of staff time to respond to the request. Therefore, we estimate that the cost of complying with the request in its entirety would exceed the 'appropriate limit'. Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit (known as the 'appropriate limit'). The 'appropriate limit' for NHS Resolution is £450. This equates to 18 hours of work at the rate of £25 per hour set out in the 'Fees Regulations'.

In order to address your query within the time limit we have used an alternative approach, which we hope will assist. Our previous case management system included a facility to mark cases as involving a concern about sexual misconduct. Concerns were captured at the time the case was opened and could be updated over the duration of the case. We have provided this information in the **Table 1** below. The table does not include data for 2024/25 because we transferred to a new case management system that does not currently have the facility to mark cases as involving a concern about sexual misconduct.

Table 1: Number of Practitioner Performance Advice cases classified as involving a sexual misconduct concern at the time opened in our case management system	
Profession	Number of cases 2015/16 to 2023/24¹
Doctor	673
Dentist	25
Pharmacist	#

indicates where figures are less than 5 and have been removed because we believe the likelihood exists that individuals who are the subject of this information may be identified either from this information alone, or in combination with other available information.

We regret that we are unable to provide you with the exact number of cases involving pharmacists as a professions group, as we consider the disclosure of information with this level of granularity is exempt under section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3A)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, where disclosure to a member of the public would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. The data protection principles are set out in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation. We take the view that it would not be fair or lawful (given the sensitive and confidential nature of the information held) to disclose such information, and any disclosure would therefore contravene the first data protection principle (this deals with fairness and lawfulness).

In some instances, the low numbers of cases (fewer than 5) in each category, the likelihood exists that individuals who are the subject of this information may be identified either from this information alone, or in combination with other available information. We do not believe the data subjects would expect us to process their personal information in this way and we do not believe there is a legal requirement for us to do so.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are not satisfied with the service that you have received in response to your information request, it is open to you to make a complaint and request a formal review of our decisions. If you choose to do this, you should write to [Joanne Appleby](#), Deputy Data Protection Officer, NHS

¹ Please note we transitioned to a new case management system in March 2024 and thus the figures for 2023/24 do not represent a complete financial year.

Resolution, within 28 days of your receipt of this reply. Reviews of decisions made in relation to information requests are carried out by a person who was not involved in the original decision-making about the request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of the decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the local complaints procedure. The address of the Information Commissioner's Office is:

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

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