

RE: Freedom of Information Request 201718 / 033 – Whistleblowing Records

Your Query	Date of Request	May 2017
<p>A. Please disclose since 1 April 2013:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How many calls in total have been made by the Health Board's staff to the Confidential Alert line, operated by Public Concern at Work, regarding concerns relating to the Health Board. 2) A summary of the nature of the concerns raised via the Confidential Alert line. 3) Please indicate whether Public Concern has provided the Health Board with any personal data about the callers. 4) Please advise what training or other services the Health Board has received from Public Concern at Work in the period, and whether the Health Board contributed to any payments for such services. (If so, please give the total paid by the Health Board). <p>B. For financial year 2016/17:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Please advise if the Health Board has kept a central record of whistleblowing concerns that were raised internally by staff with the Health Board. 6) If the Health Board has kept a central record, please indicate what data has been recorded about whistleblowing events (for example, number of concerns, nature of concerns, action taken by the Health Board, and outcome, including whether there has been any subsequent detriment to the whistleblower) and where possible disclose the data that was recorded. 		
<p>Response</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NHS Orkney receives bi-annual reports from Public Concern at Work regarding the number of calls received, but due to the low numbers reported these are always noted as "0-3 calls received" to protect the identity of callers. As such, we are unable to provide an accurate figure of the number of calls received. 2) To date NHS Orkney has not been given any information regarding the nature of concerns raised through the Confidential Alert Line. 3) To date NHS Orkney has not been given any personal data about callers. 4) Public Concern at Work provided training during April 2017 to Designated Whistleblowing Contracts for NHS Boards 5) NHS Orkney's Whistleblowing Policy was updated in March 2017 to include a form to be completed for any internal Whistleblowing concerns raised. 6) The information recorded is the number of concerns and the nature of the concerns raised. <p>We are unable to disclose this information as the number of recorded instances as we are bound by the laws of confidentiality in respect of members of staff. Supplying the exact figure or the nature of</p>		

the concern could allow them to be indentified and would be a breach of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 1998, which is to process data fairly and lawfully. This information is therefore exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.