

Dear

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request concerning hospital chapel/prayer room vandalism.

Data concerning vandalism to religious/spiritual rooms and buildings in the hospital (e.g. hospital chapels and prayer rooms) from January 2009 to as recently as possible.

Please include a breakdown of the damage caused and the cost incurred, as well as the time period during which incidents occurred. Please also include any reports submitted by hospital staff and, where possible, data concerning assaults, intimidation or threatening behaviour towards hospital chaplains and other hospital staff employed in a spiritual or religious role.

The Trust can provide the following information:

Re: Intimidation: no reports have ever been formally made by the chaplains. Chaplains may encounter rudeness and anger, but have never felt threatened.

Re: vandalism: only minor damage/theft in terms of cost: i.e. stealing/defacing the prayer request book (£ 1), stealing cheap Christmas decorations, etc. In terms of offense caused this is much more difficult to measure, however no formal complaint has ever been made. We do not keep a record of these incidents, primarily because they occur infrequently and because is also difficult to gauge motivation: is the damage done due to mental disturbance or is the multi-faith aspect of the prayer room difficult for people to manage?

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk , in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

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