

FOI REF: 21/609

13th December 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

I would like to request the following information on the number of staff impacted by long Covid under your trust.

- 1. How many staff members were recorded to have had long Covid while working for your trust at any time in the period between March 2020 - September 2021?**

34

- 2. What were the five longest periods in days that a member of staff took a leave of absence due to long Covid in the time period between March 2020 - September 2021?**

Calendar Days =

273 276 279 290 294

- 3. Could you state all leave of absences taken where long Covid was cited as the cause between March 2020 and September 2021.**

42

- 4. Does your trust offer any specialised support for staff members living with long Covid? If so could you please provide details of these services.**

The Occupational Health service (OH) has secured a referral pathway to the Post Covid Assessment Service, (PCAS), where staff can gain access to a range of services to support their physical and mental health. We meet frequently with the service leads to check on the efficiency of the pathway and explore other aspects of

work to enhance this support. We also advise staff to access Staff in Mind if they are struggling with their mental health and have access to trauma therapists for any staff who are particularly affected by COVID in relation to work.

5. What plans, if any, are in place to improve the support available to staff members who are living with long Covid while working for your trust?

We are working with the PCAS service leads to explore the potential of a staff support group for those with Long Covid. This would be peer led but could have input from OH, PCAS professionals and one of the therapists we work with on a sessional basis. We are also working with Human Resources to review the return to work arrangements for staff with Long COVID.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
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