

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Monday 18th September 2023. I am pleased to confirm the following.

1. What training has been given to the Trusts staff in regards to the Armed Forces Covenant?

1549 staff: Mandatory Trust Induction for new starters. 10-minute presentation highlighting support for staff with an armed forces link (Armed Forces Staff Network) and support for veteran patients ('Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance; what it is/what it means).

39 staff members have received the two-day MH England's 'Armed Forces Mental Health First Aid' course which gives delegates an in-depth knowledge about the Armed Forces community, their needs, the covenant, and signposting/referral options (Armed Forces charities and statutory support). This includes a veterans lived experience plenary session.

Circa 80 staff: Individual team meetings detailing who the Armed Forces community are, what their health needs are likely to be, what provision there is for them (statutory and non-statutory) what the barriers are in terms of help seeking behaviours, accessing support and remaining engaged with it, and local support that's available both in the Trust and externally.

Total: 1668 staff

2. How many patients on a monthly basis have received accelerated treatment under the Armed Forces Covenant?

Unknown at this stage. The Armed Forces Covenant legislation was not enshrined in law until November 2022. 16 Trusts nationally applied for funding to employ a dedicated Armed Forces Covenant officer over two years (pilot project) to support the work within Trusts. Part of the work is to ensure veterans are identified at points of entry and recorded on the relevant PAS systems so that service-related injuries can be treated appropriately. MKUH is currently working towards having the 'have you served' question embedded as a mandatory question. Until this has taken place the Trust is unable to accurately count. It is anticipated that this will be in place by the end of the two-year project.

3. On average by area of treatment has priority care under the Armed Forces Covenant reduced the waiting time for treatment of the individual patient?

This information is not accessible.

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If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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