

## **FOI\_1459\_2023-24 – FOI Request Patients Sexual Orientation**

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### **1. What Solent NHS Trust’s policy/rules/procedures are regarding clinical staff asking patients about their sexual orientation**

This is very broadly covered in the Records management & Information Lifecycle management Policy for Clinical and Corporate Records and some individual services have local Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). We ask the question because sexual orientation is a protected characteristic, and it is important for us to assure ourselves that we are not discriminating against anyone with a protected characteristic.

### **2. If patients are asked about their sexual orientation, do they have the right not to answer?**

Yes, all individuals have a right to choose not to answer this question.