

## **FOI 0540/2025 Response**

### **Request**

I have searched through all existing FOI responses and have been unable to find policies that have been claimed to exist regarding patient freedoms, particular to a patient's right to private life and freedom of speech. I have been told that adult patients on psychiatric intensive ward units are not allowed to partake in any affection or intimacy with family or friends during visits and are not allowed to maintain relationships.

Please provide Trust policies declaring that patient must cease existing relationships and refrain from displays of affection or intimacy during visits.

### **Response**

There is no explicit policy covering cease existing relationships and refraining from displays of affection or intimacy during visits.

However, due to risks, most patients within an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) will require supervised visits both as a protective factor for patient, and of those who are visiting.

This is particularly important for those without mental capacity, or have a known risk of domestic abuse, and during instances where intimacy is not wanted either by patient or visitor.

It should be noted that any patient with mental health illness of a nature and degree that warrants hospital admission and Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) management will have regular MDT meetings with all relevant stakeholders. This is to ensure best interest decisions are made and any relevant policies applied.

Furthermore, where a clinician deems contact with an individual to be detrimental to a patient's health, they reserve the right to restrict access.