



Updated 7/1/2025

## Documenting Human Rights Abuses in Clinical Systems

*Please note: The letters described in this briefing are also available as Word Documents on our website. These can be added to your practice letters templates.*

### **Ardens Template for use in SystemOne: 'Suspected Human Rights Abuses'**

#### **Background**

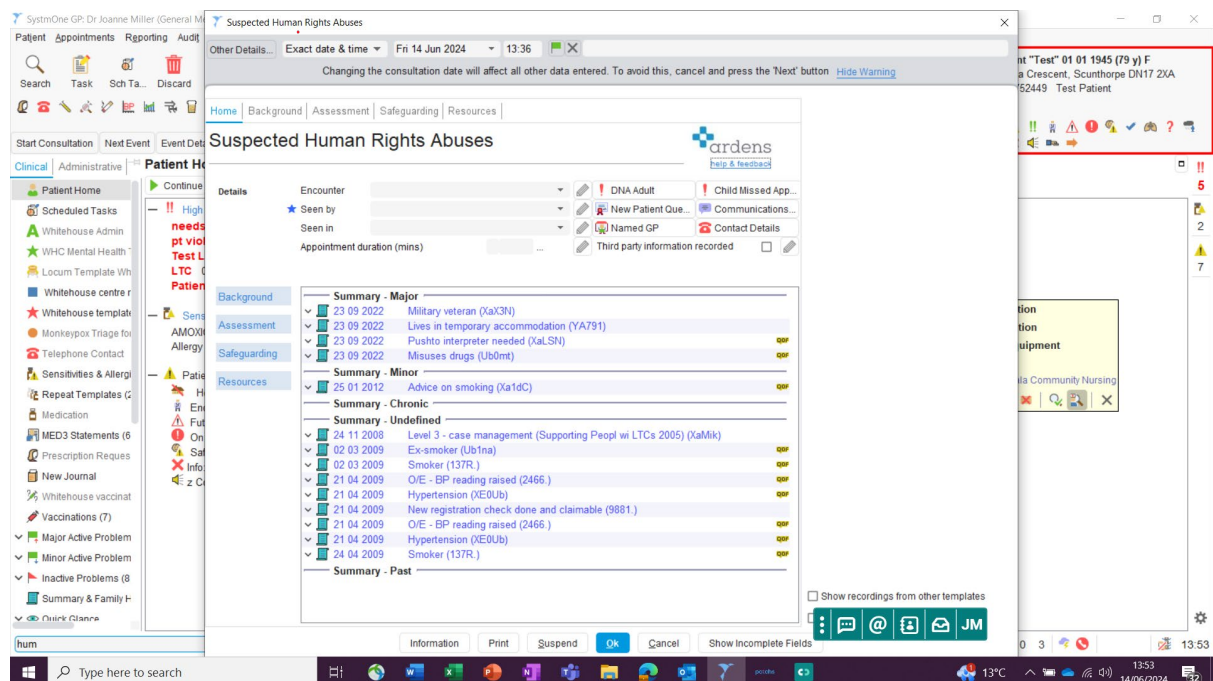
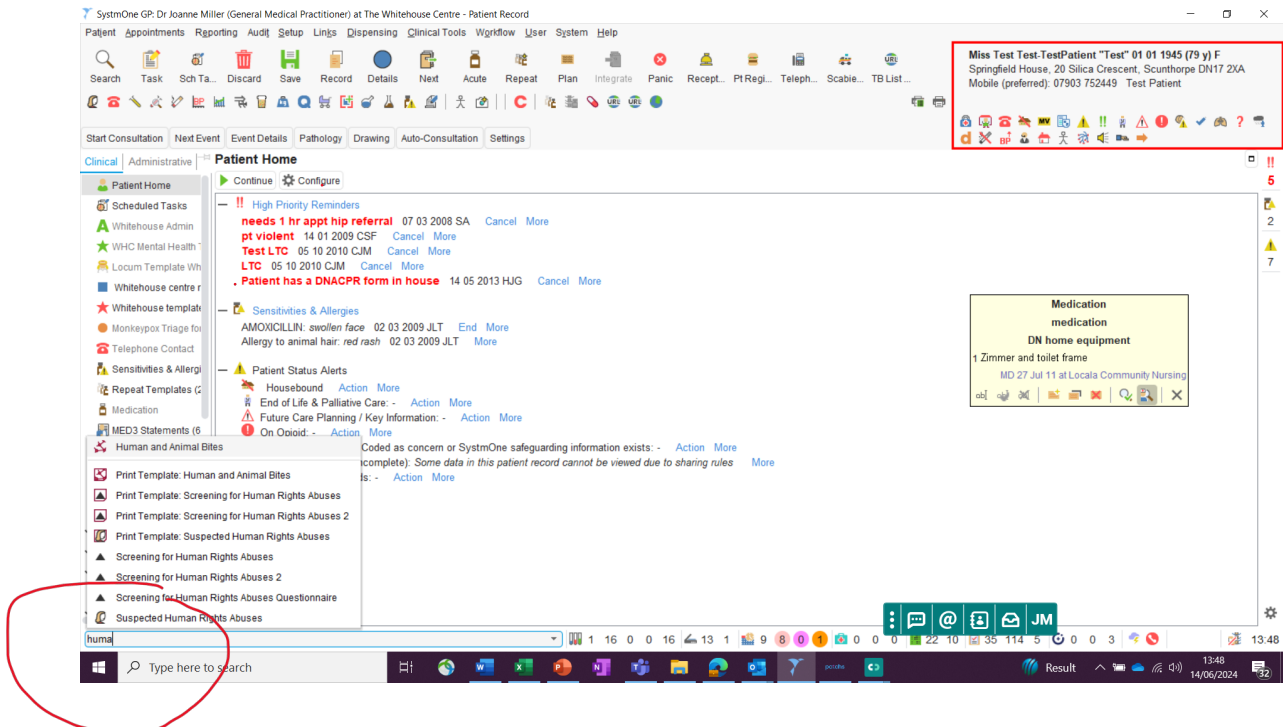
TortureID has worked with Ardens to produce a template to assist with asking about and documenting human rights abuses. Ardens have produced the template free of charge and have also made the template open access so that all SystemOne users can upload a copy. [Ardens Open Access Group : Ardens](#) At the moment there is no EMIS version. Please let TortureID know if you would use an EMIS version.

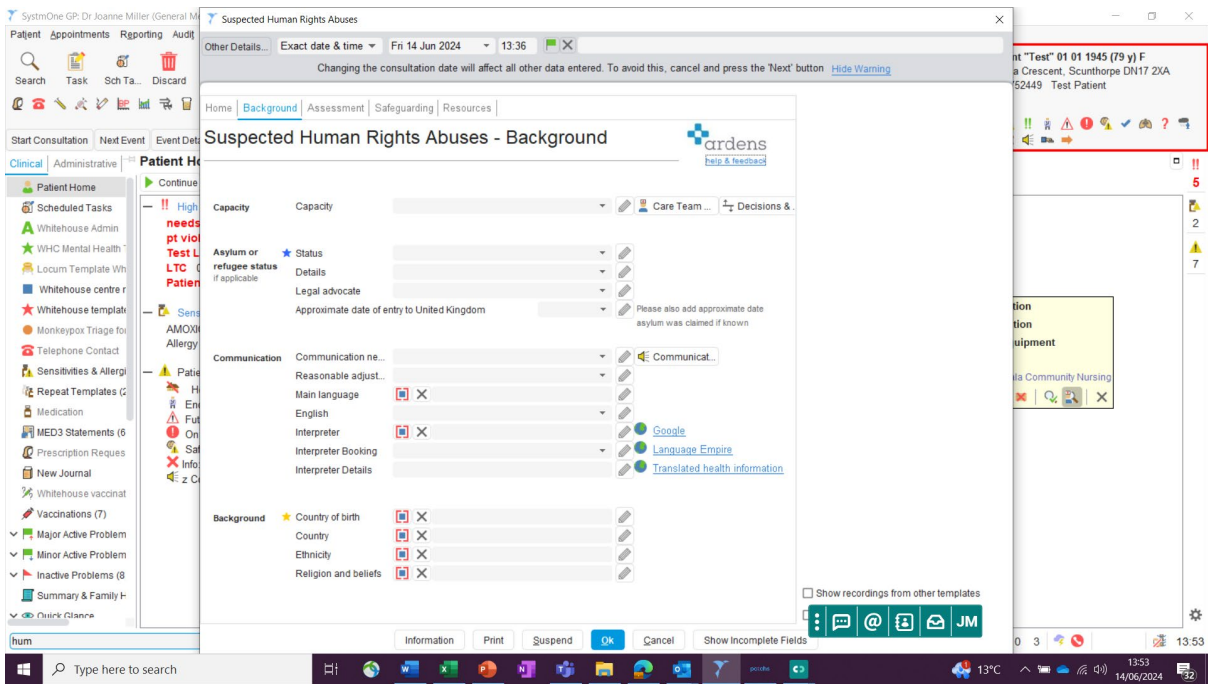
The template links to 2 pre-formatted letter templates:

1. A letter to the patient which they can use as they see fit.
2. A safeguarding notification which can be sent to the Home Office Safeguarding team plus other relevant parties.

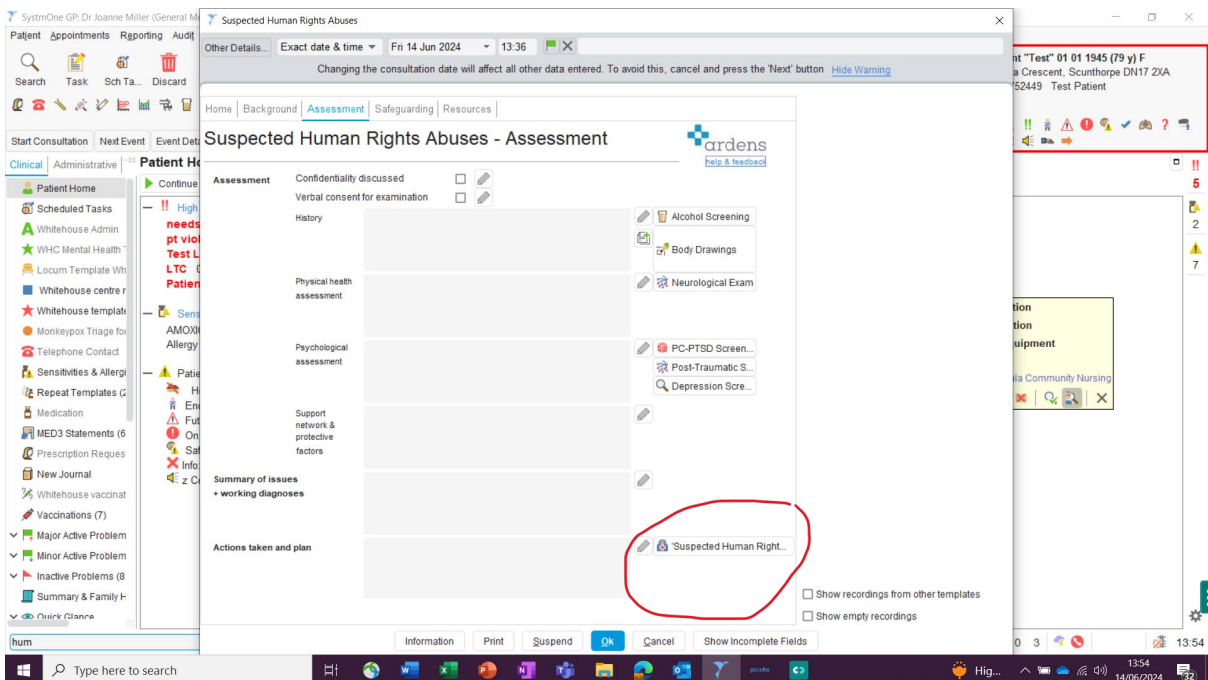
## Finding the template in Ardens

If you have Ardens the quickest way to locate the template is to type 'susp' or 'human' in the search box which is bottom left of the screen shot below. You then click on 'Suspected Human Rights Abuses'

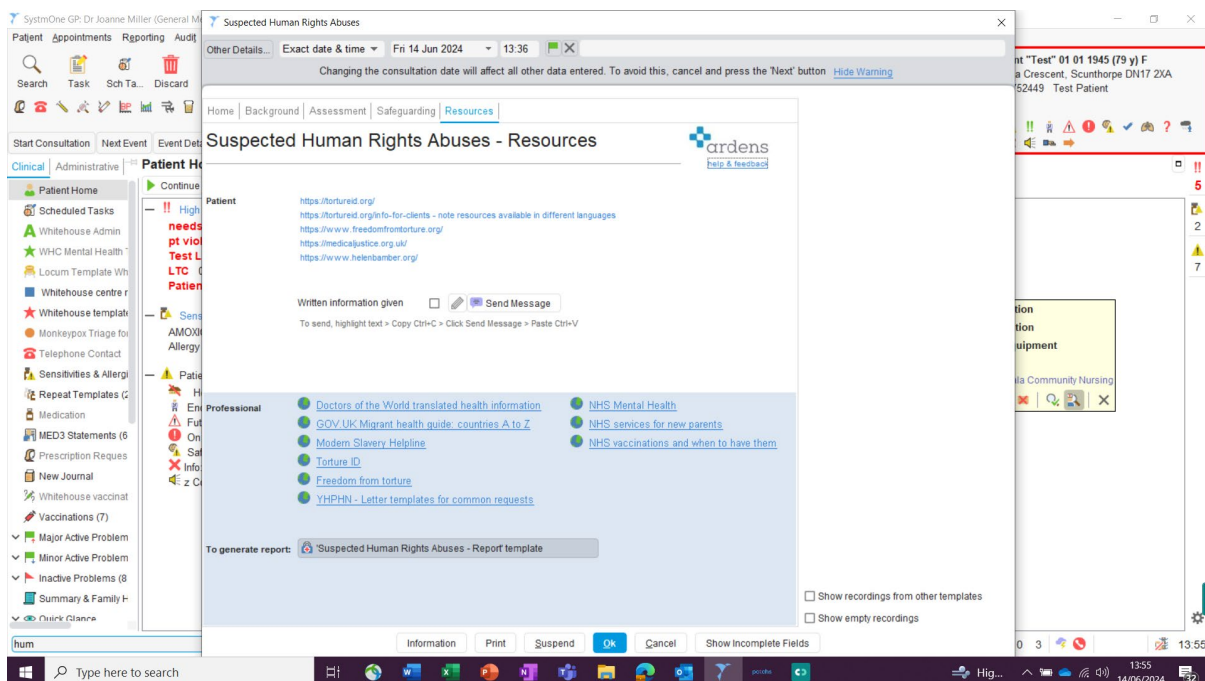
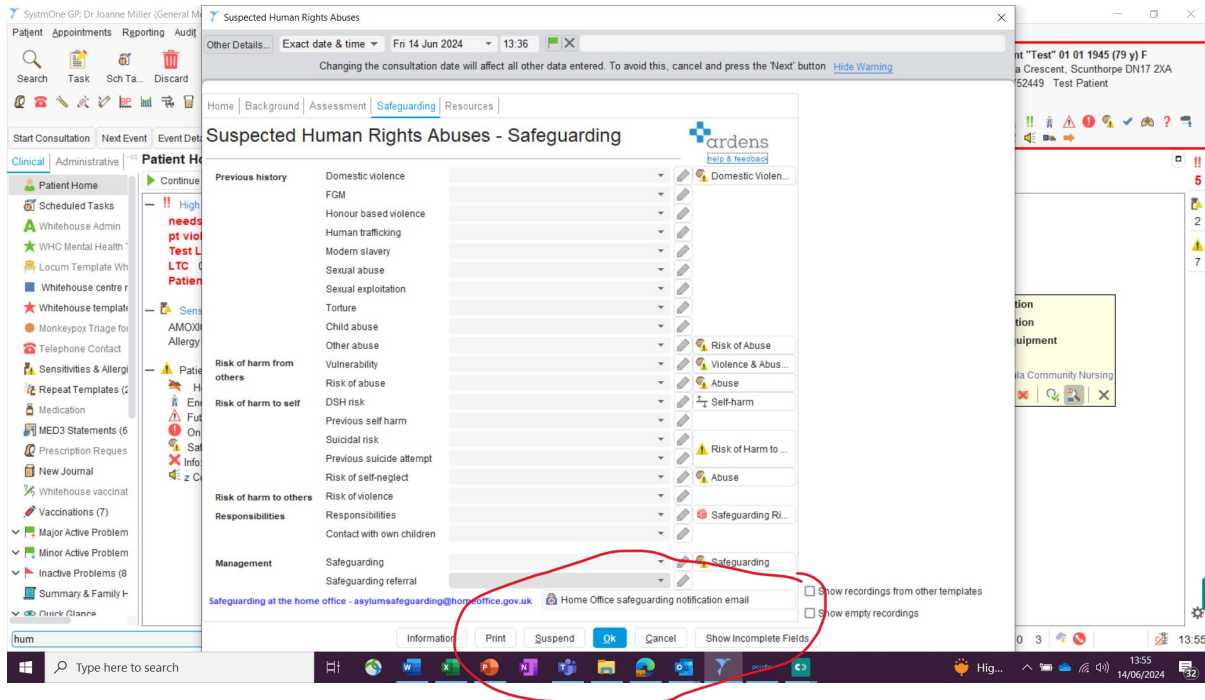




The circled area below is the link to producing the letter which describes your clinical findings relating to human rights abuses. Your consultation will move across into the body of the letter as long as you create the letter before closing the consultation. Alternatively, you can cut and paste at a later time, or write an entry into the letter.



The circled area below is the link to the risk letter which you can send to the Home Office email address which is in blue below. You can add other local contacts such as accommodation providers.



Screenshots of letter about human rights abuses (letter also available as a word document from TortureID)

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Word document with the following content:

**NHS**

**Patient Details:**

|               |   |                    |  |
|---------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Name          | Miss Test Test-TestPatient  | NHS No.            | 01 01 1945   |
| Address       | Springfield House, 20 Silica Crescent, Scunthorpe, South Humberside | Date of Birth      | Female   |
| Postcode      | DN17 2XA  | Home Tel.          |  |
| Ethnicity     | British or mixed British - ethnic category 2001 census              | Mobile Tel.        |  |
| Main Language | Main spoken language English  | Nationality        |  |
|               |   | Interpreter Req'd. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**Assessor Details:**

|         |   |                    |              |
|---------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| Name    |   | Date of assessment | 14 June 2024 |
| Base    | The Whitehouse Centre   | Designation        |              |
| Address | Princess Royal Health Centre, Princess Royal Health Centre, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 4EW | Practice Code/ID   | B85659       |
| Email   |   | Telephone          | 03330 436243 |

**CLINICAL ASSESSMENT OF REPORTED ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS!**

Dear Miss Test Test-TestPatient,

This letter contains information from your GP record about your healthcare. This information will remain in your GP record, but it may not be easy for you to retrieve.

For many reasons people may find it difficult to explain what has happened to them. Having your own copy of this letter may be useful if you need health care in the future.

The main purpose of your recent assessment was clinical. However, you may decide to use the letter for alternative reasons. There are notes at the end of this letter for people who read the letter in relation to an asylum claim.

**Extract from Clinical Record:**

The screenshot shows the main body of the letter with the following content:

i This letter template has been adopted by our GP practice and is based on a suggested template created by Freedom for Torture (FFT) and TortureID (TID) who are both medical charities working with people who have experienced human rights abuses. For more information about the identification and documentation of suspected human rights abuses, please refer to their websites for updates.

- 1. Ethical Obligations**  
Health Professionals have ethical obligations to evaluate allegations of human rights abuses. These obligations are explained in The Istanbul Protocol: PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SERIES No. 8/Rev. 2 Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: The United Nations (2022). 'When alleged victims provide their informed consent to health professionals for a clinical evaluation and report torture and ill-treatment, the clinician has an unequivocal duty to document and report the torture or ill-treatment, if substantiated – failing to do so would, according to WMA (World Medical Association), constitute a form of complicity in torture and ill-treatment.' Para 604.
- 2. Nature of the assessment**  
This letter may contain information from one, or more, assessments. A clinician will target their questions and examinations in response to the history obtained and their initial observations of the individual and the circumstances of the encounter. It is rarely possible in short appointments to conduct comprehensive physical and psychological examinations. Problems with distress, trust, focus, rapport and with the sheer extent of ill-treatment may limit the information that can be elicited. If an interpreter is needed or the individual is speaking in English as a second language, this can further limit assessment. Any examinations recorded are likely to be only part of what there is to record and medico-legal documentation in the future may reveal more findings. Psychological presentations and risks can improve or deteriorate with time and in response to external events. Suicide and self-harm risk can change significantly and rapidly and this requires regular reassessment. It is rarely possible, in time-pressured environments, to check that information given has been recorded correctly.



## Screenshots of letter about risk (also available as a word document from TortureID)

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Word document with the following content:

**NHS**

**Patient Details:**

|               |   |                   |  |
|---------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Name          | Miss Test-TestPatient   | NHS No.           | 01 01 1945   |
| Address       | Springfield House, 20 Silica Crescent, Scunthorpe, South Humberside | Date of Birth     | Female   |
| Postcode      | DN17 2XA  | Home Tel          |  |
| Ethnicity     | British or mixed British - ethnic category 2001 census              | Mobile Tel        |  |
| Main Language | Main spoken language English  | Nationality       |  |
|               |   | Interpreter Reqd. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**Assessor Details:**

|         |   |                    |              |
|---------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| Name    |   | Date of assessment | 14 June 2024 |
| Base    | The Whitehouse Centre   | Designation        |              |
| Address | Princess Royal Health Centre, Princess Royal Health Centre, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 4EW | Practice Code/ID   | B85659       |
| Email   |   | Telephone          | 03330 436243 |

14 Jun 2024

Email sent on ..... to:

Asylum Safeguarding Hub  
Cc: Add/delete as appropriate patient, solicitor, accommodation safeguarding lead

Dear Home Office,

**SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR HOME OFFICE!**  
This individual is registered at our GP practice. I am writing to alert you to some safeguarding concerns which have come to our attention. The patient has consented to the sharing of this information unless we indicate otherwise. Unnecessary detail has been avoided because of difficulties with sending secure emails. We can be approached for more detail if the patient consents or there are major concerns. (Please enter relevant information below)

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Word document with the following content:

Please could you make sure that this information is forwarded to the relevant case owner or safeguarding lead and kept on their file?

From their medical records they have the following conditions and medication:

**Medical Problems:**  

| Start date | End date | Problem |
|------------|----------|---------|
|------------|----------|---------|

**Regular Medications:**  

| Full description | Dose | Quantity |
|------------------|------|----------|
|------------------|------|----------|

Yours faithfully,  
Name: Dr Miller  
On behalf of .....

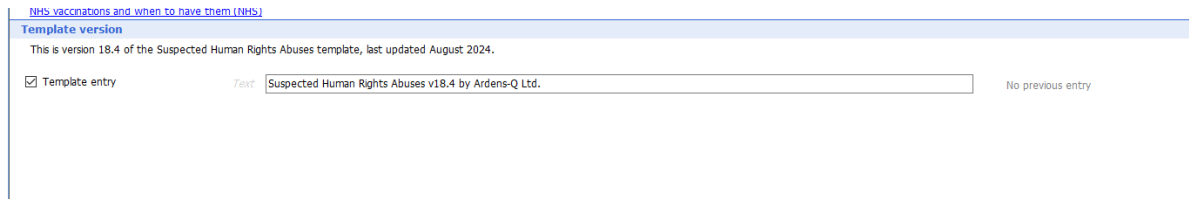
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<sup>1</sup> This letter template has been designed by TortureID to assist clinicians with reporting safeguarding concerns, relating to people who are seeking asylum, to the Home Office.

## Ardens Template for use in EMIS: 'Suspected Human Rights Abuses'

TID does not have an EMIS using clinician available to create a comprehensive screenshot guide (If anyone would like to do one, that would be great!)

All we can do is provide this screenshot to help you find it:



Ardens have informed us they are adding the 2 template letters to the library of letter resources available to EMIS users.