

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information:

1. Please can you provide the number of physical assaults against hospital staff by patients and members of the public on the Trusts premises for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?

01/01/2019:31/12/2023. Type – Staff, Cat’ Abusive..., Staff affected.

| Year | Number reported |
|------|-----------------|
| 2019 | 206 |
| 2020 | 208 |
| 2021 | 318 |
| 2022 | 370 |
| 2023 | 473 |

2. How many of these physical assaults were reported to the police for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?

Police called – Yes

| Year | Number reported |
|------|-----------------|
| 2019 | 16 |
| 2020 | 17 |
| 2021 | 33 |
| 2022 | 20 |
| 2023 | 36 |

3. If you hold this data, how many had a criminal justice outcome (e.g. cautioned, charged, taken to court) for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?

Not held on Datix

4. Since 2019 has the Trust introduced any additional measures to try to reduce the number of physical assaults against hospital staff? If so, please specify what measures have been taken e.g. body cameras, CCTV in clinical areas, more security guards etc?

Our Ref: 71
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Since the introduction of the violence prevention and reduction standard, the Trust has implemented a bi-monthly violence prevention and reduction meetings with attendance from clinical Departmental Heads, Matrons and representation from Safeguarding, Occupational Health, Education and HR. Following risk assessment all areas are categorised into High, Medium and low risk and training for enhanced conflict resolution, break away and clinical holding has been delivered to staff.

Standard Operating Procedures have been approved for requesting security support and ensuring a clinical lead and overview of incidents ensuring patient and staff safety, a process for requesting a one to one (bed watch) is agreed following risk assessment and approval.

Security staff wear body cameras which are activated when dealing with incidents of an aggressive nature and footage is shared with the Police to aid investigation and prosecution.

Financial resource is allocated annually for security management and following risk assessment prioritised areas have further investment into CCTV and access control measures.

The Trust is funding additional patrols from South Yorkshire Police to improve visibility and deter incidents.

Not held on Datix

As you know, under the Act you are required to provide a response within 20 working days.

If you do not provide the information requested, you must explain the legal basis for the information being withheld.

If you decline part of the request due to information being sensitive, the request being too vague, or reasonable cost being exceeded, you must still provide the part you can fulfil.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits, please provide advice and assistance as to how I can refine my request.