

Our Ref: 667  
October 2024

## Freedom of Information Act Request

FOI request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please supply me with the following information:

1. How many members of staff have been subject to physical abuse in your A&E Department each year, from October 2021 to October 2024, broken down by each month?

**Search entered in Datix:**

**Reported**

01/10/2021:31/10/2024

**Location**

Emergency Assessment Unit (EAU) DRI  
Emergency Department – Bassetlaw  
Emergency Department – Doncaster  
Emergency Department – Minor Injuries Unit - Doncaster  
Emergency Department – Minor Injuries Unit – Montagu  
Emergency Service Unit (ESU) DRI  
Paediatric Emergency Department – Bassetlaw  
Paediatric Emergency Department – Doncaster

**Type of Incident**

Staff

**Subcategory**

Abuse – other  
Patient abusing Staff  
Public abusing Staff / Patient  
Staff abusing Staff

**Incident detail**

Abuse – other  
Assault etc with a weapon  
Physical abuse, assault or violence

Nov 21	0
Dec 21	0
Jan 22	0
Feb 22	0
Mar 22	0
Apr 22	0
May 22	0
June 22	0

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July 22	0
Aug 22	0
Sept 22	0
Oct 22	0
Nov 22	0
Dec 22	0
Jan 23	0
Feb 23	0
Mar 23	*
Apr 23	*
May 23	0
June 23	*
July 23	*
Aug 23	5
Sept 23	0
Oct 23	*
Nov 23	*
Dec 23	0
Jan 24	*
Feb 24	*
Mar 24	*
Apr 24	*
May 24	*
June 24	*
July 24	*
Aug 24	*
Sept 24	*

**Entries marked \* represent numbers under 5**

After careful consideration, we are unable to provide specific numerical data where the count is fewer than five. This decision is made to protect the privacy of individuals and is consistent with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Explanation of Exemption: Section 40(2) of the FOIA exempts the release of personal data if it would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The numbers requested pertain to very small groups, which could potentially lead to the identification of individuals, thereby constituting personal data. Disclosing this information would breach the first data protection principle, which requires that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Releasing data where the numbers are fewer than five could inadvertently disclose personal information about identifiable individuals. Public Interest Test: Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test. The need to protect personal data and the privacy of individuals outweighs the interest in disclosure in these cases. Summary: In conclusion, while we strive to be as transparent as possible, the

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information you requested includes counts fewer than five, and releasing such detailed data could lead to the identification of individuals. Therefore, we are unable to disclose this information under Section 40(2) of the FOIA.

2. If possible, please could this be broken down by ethnic groups of staff?

**82% White British**

**11% Indian**

**5% Filipino**

**2% South African**

3. If possible, please give a brief description of the type of assault, and any resulting injuries (physical or verbal / punching or spitting)

- All cases physical assault including punching, kicking and scratching

4. Could you please include whether a racial or hate crime element was noted as part of the incident?

- X1 case of patient shouting racial abuse within the ED whilst kicking, hitting and biting

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to [d.wraith@nhs.net](mailto:d.wraith@nhs.net). If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF Tel: 0303 123 1113 Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

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