

Information Governance

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11 April 2019
Reference no. 18190478

Dear

Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email of 15th March making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

Request:

This is a follow-up to the data previously released to and published by Unison and the Health Service Journal for the year 2016-2017, so please release the data I am requesting with the same parameters used in this previous data for the year 2017-2018.

The questions below are in order of importance, if answering these questions is likely to exceed the cost and time limit for responding to an FOI please answer them in order until these limits have been met. I would like to request the following:

1) The total number of physical assaults on staff for the following time periods:

- 2017-2018
- 2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available

By physical assaults on staff I refer to the definition used in the NHS Protect 2016 Guidance: "the intentional application of force against the person without lawful justification resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort. Spitting is included in the definition of a physical assault."

2) If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods.

The total number of non-physical assaults on staff for the following time periods:

- 2017-2018

- 2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available

By non-physical assaults on staff I refer to the definition used in the NHS Protect 2016 Guidance: "the use of inappropriate words or behaviour causing distress and/or constituting harassment. Non-physical assault includes: offensive or obscene language; verbal abuse and swearing; brandishing weapons, or objects which could be used as weapons; attempted assaults; offensive gestures; threats; intimidation; harassment or stalking; damage to buildings equipment or vehicles which causes fear for personal safety; offensive language or behaviour related to a person's, race, gender, nationality, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation; inappropriate sexual language or behaviour."

If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods.

If possible, could you please release answers to each question as soon as possible (rather than in one overall response). If FOI requests of a similar nature have already been asked could you please include your responses to those requests. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

Response:

Note: Includes all assaults on staff by patients, the public and other staff. The split between physical assaults and non-physical assaults numbers is based on how it is defined by the incident reporter and is not necessarily checked against the previous NHS Protect definitions.

1.	2017-2018	= 882
	2018-2019, (full year)	= 865
2.	2017-2018	= 786
	2018-2019, (full year)	= 777

The Trust are unable to disclose any data sets.

If you are concerned with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for FOI Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9
5AF

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance