

FOI 2858

22nd January 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Q1. The total number of assaults on HSC staff by members of the public/patients within the Southern Trust Hospitals (with and without injury) from 1st January 2024 until 31st December 2024.

Response

It is not possible for the SHSCT to confirm how many assaults as requested above. This is because one incident may involve more than one assault/alleged assault, against 1 or more than one staff member. To review each incident would exceed the time threshold of FOI requests.

In order, to provide this information a review of each incident would be required and the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

This response has provided the number of incidents which relate to the assaults on staff.

The SHSCT uses Regional CCS2 coding to theme incidents reported on the Datix Risk Management System. The information provided includes incidents coded as:

- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Patient or
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Visitor

There were 2085 incidents reported between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024 on the Datix system coded as above. Please note these incidents include both founded and alleged assaults.

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