

FOI 3071

16th May 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

How many physical assaults have there been on doctors on a yearly basis from 2020 – 2025? (Or the latest year you have got statistics for.)

How many physical assaults have there been on nurses on a yearly basis from 2020 – 2025? (Or the latest year you have got statistics for.)

Response

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust uses Regional CCS2 coding to theme incidents reported on the Datix Risk Management System. The information provided includes the number of doctors and nurses directly impacted by an incident coded as Physical Contact (actual assault):

For Doctors:

| | |
|------|----|
| 2020 | 11 |
| 2021 | 12 |
| 2022 | 7 |
| 2023 | <5 |
| 2024 | 7 |

For Nurses:

| | |
|------|------|
| 2020 | 515 |
| 2021 | 643 |
| 2022 | 476 |
| 2023 | 676 |
| 2024 | 1154 |

As an employer the Trust has a legal duty to protect employee confidentiality, in line with this duty the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not

consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

How many physical assaults in each year have resulted in the doctor receiving medical treatment?

How many physical assaults in each year have resulted in the nurse receiving medical treatment?

Response:

It is not possible for the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to confirm if medical treatment was required as requested above. Medical treatment is not recorded on the same system that incidents are reported, to review each incident individually in an attempt to obtain this information, 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.

How many verbal assaults have there been doctors on a yearly basis from 2020 – 2025? (Or the latest year you have got statistics for.)

How many verbal assaults have there been on nurses on a yearly basis from 2020 – 2025? (Or the latest year you have got statistics for.)

Response:

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust uses coding to theme incidents reported. The information provided includes the number of doctors and nurses directly impacted by an incident coded as Verbal abuse:

For Doctors:

| | |
|------|----|
| 2020 | 8 |
| 2021 | 8 |
| 2022 | 11 |
| 2023 | 6 |
| 2024 | 11 |

For Nurses:

| | |
|------|-----|
| 2020 | 161 |
| 2021 | 116 |

| | |
|------|-----|
| 2022 | 155 |
| 2023 | 129 |
| 2024 | 152 |

There were 44 verbal assault incidents on doctors and 713 verbal assault incidents on nurses reported on the Datix system between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2024 as above.

How many sexual assaults have there been doctors on a yearly basis from 2020 – 2025? (Or the latest year you have got statistics for.)

How many sexual assaults have there been nurses on a yearly basis from 2020 – 2025? (Or the latest year you have got statistics for.)

Response:

It is not possible for the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to split the type of sexual abuse as requested above.

The SHSCT uses coding to theme incidents reported. The information provided includes the number of doctors and nurses that have been directly impacted by an incident coded as Sexual abuse/assault (including harassment & indecent exposure):

For Doctors:

| | |
|------|----|
| 2020 | <5 |
|------|----|

No other incidents within the requested timeframe.

As an employer the Trust has a legal duty to protect employee confidentiality, in line with this duty the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

For Nurses:

| | |
|------|----|
| 2020 | 39 |
|------|----|

| | |
|------|----|
| 2021 | 28 |
| 2022 | 27 |
| 2023 | 32 |
| 2024 | 30 |

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