

FOI/3013

26<sup>th</sup> June 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**1. How many patients presented at your largest A+E with mental ill health (psychiatric, psychological, and/or behavioural disturbances/changes) as the primary issue each year between and including 2019 to 2025? Please include data up to the end of February 2025.**

**Response:**

Please see attachment 1.

**2. How many patients identified in question 1 waited more than 12 hours for transfer to a bed in a mental health unit after a decision to admit? Please provide year by year data between and including 2019 to 2025, and include data up to the end of February 2025.**

**Response:**

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a significant manual search of individual patient records. As such we cannot provide this information as 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. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records 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.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

**3. How many incidents of physical violence carried out towards staff by patients were reported each year between and including 2019 to 2025 in your largest Emergency Department? Please include data up to the end of February 2025.**

**Response:**

The Southern Trust reviewed the Datix system under the category “Inappropriate/aggressive behaviour towards staff by patients + Physical Contact (Actual Assault)” and have provided the below information.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>
<b>2025 (Feb)</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, 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 and the sensitivity of the information requested. 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 exact figures from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the 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

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