

FOI 3380

4th November 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

In the years 2020 - 2021, 2021 - 2022, 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, how many reports of rape or sexual assault were recorded in your hospitals? Please provide a breakdown by hospital and financial year

Response:

It is not possible for the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) to confirm how many reports of rape or sexual assault recorded in hospitals due to the fact that one incident may involve more than one assault/alleged assault, against one, or more than one, person.

Provided are the number of incidents which relate to the reports of sexual incidents including harassment and indecent exposure with a breakdown of hospital and financial year.

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

- Sexual (including harassment and indecent exposure)

Financial Year Hospital	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Craigavon Area Hospital	64	49	52	78	72
Daisy Hill Hospital	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Lurgan Hospital		<5	<5		<5
South Tyrone Hospital	<5	<5	7	10	<5
St Lukes Hospital	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient and 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.

Of the incidents recorded in Q1, how many were alleged to have been carried out by NHS staff? Please provide a breakdown by hospital and financial year

Of the incidents recorded in Q2, how many were alleged to have taken place on hospital wards? Please provide a breakdown by hospital and financial year

Of the incidents recorded in Q1, how many of these allegations were referred to the police? Please provide a breakdown by hospital and financial year

Of the incidents recorded in Q4, how many of these resulted in an arrest, charge, or conviction? Please provide a breakdown by hospital and financial year

Response

It is not possible for the SHSCT to respond to questions 2- 5 because the information is either not recorded on the Datix Risk Management Incident Reporting system and/or a manual review of each incident would be required.

The cost of locating and retrieving the information would exceed 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.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net