

FOI 3389

11th November 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1. The number of needlestick injuries reported within the Trust for 2020,2021,2022,2023,2024.

Of those who sustained a needlestick injury in 2020, 2021, 2022,2023, 2024, how many were:

- a) clinical staff
- b) non-clinical staff
- c) patients/clients

Response:

It is not possible for the SHSCT to confirm how many needlestick injuries were reported, nor is it possible to separate Clinical and Non-Clinical Staff. To identify this information a review of each incident individually would be required, which 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.

The response has provided the number of incidents which relate to Needlestick injuries.

Response to a and b

The SHSCT uses Regional CCS2 coding to theme incidents reported on the Datix Risk Management System.

Year Incident Reported	Number of Reported Incidents
2020	71
2021	74
2022	72
2023	73
2024	84
Grand Total	374

Response to c

Due to the low number of Incidents reported between 2021 and 2023, the exact number has not been provided.

Year Incident Reported	Number of Reported Incidents
2020	0
2021	<5
2022	<5
2023	<5
2024	5

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

2. The total number of compensation cases brought against the Trust for damages related to needlestick injury for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Of those who brought a case against the Trust for damages following a needlestick injury, how many were

- a) clinical staff**
- b) non-clinical staff**
- c) patients/clients**

Calendar year	Number of litigation claims brought against SHSCT
2020	<5
2021	<5
2022	<5
2023	<5
2024	<5
Totals	7 All non-clinical staff

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

3. The total amount of compensation for needlestick injury paid by the Trust in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Response:

Calendar year	Compensation / Damages
2020	£4,500
2021	£9,500
2022	0
2023	£3,200
2024	£3,000

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net