

FOI 3486

19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**Q1. Please provide the total number of assaults both physically, verbally and sexually on nurses and doctors within the Southern Health & Social Care Trust Hospitals by patients/visitors from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 until 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.**

### **Response**

It is not possible for the SHSCT to confirm how many assaults as requested above. This is due to the fact that one incident may involve more than one assault/alleged assault, against one, or more than one, staff member. The response has provided the number of Doctors and Nurses recorded against incidents which relate to assaults on staff. The Trust are unable to determine the specific role in the incident.

To review each incident individually to ascertain, the role of the staff member and/or how many assaults within each incident would exceed the time threshold of FOI requests.

This would involve a manual search of individual incident records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of 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.

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 Visitor
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Patient

Total number of Doctors and Nurses involved in above type of incidents in the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025 is 1599.

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