

FOI 3792

23rd June 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Q1. Can you please provide the details of the collective total number of assaults recorded at all Southern Trust facilities for each of the past five years?

Response:

Please see attachment.

It is not possible for the SHSCT to confirm the number of assaults requested. This is because a single incident may involve more than one assault or alleged assault and may involve one or multiple staff members. Reviewing each incident to determine this would exceed the time limits set for FOI requests.

The response has provided the number of incidents which relate to the violence and aggression incidents recorded in SHSCT.

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 a Patient by a Patient
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards a Patient by a Visitor/Other
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards a Patient by Staff
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards a Visitor by a Visitor
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Patient
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Visitor
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by Staff
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Visitor by a Patient
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Visitor by Staff

Please note these incidents include both founded and alleged assaults.

Q2. Can you further provide details of the number of reports of assaults on medical staff specifically at St Luke's Hospital in Armagh, Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill in each of the past five years?

Response: It is not possible for the SHSCT to confirm the number of assaults requested. This is because a single incident may involve more than one assault or alleged assault and may involve one or multiple staff members. Reviewing each incident to determine this would exceed the time limits set for FOI requests.

The response has provided the number of incidents which relate to the violence and aggression incidents recorded in SHSCT.

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 Patient
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Visitor
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by Staff

The information provided includes incidents where a medical staff member is recorded or associated with the incident. The different grades of medical staff that may be included are listed below:

- Core Trainee
- Doctor FY1
- Doctor FY2
- GP
- GP Trainee
- SP Trainee
- Staff - Medical and Dental

There were 69 incidents reported between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2025 on the Datix system coded as above.

Site	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Craigavon Area Hospital	13	8	7	13	19
Daisy Hill Hospital	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*
St Lukes Hospital			<5*		

Please note these incidents include both founded and alleged assaults.

* 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 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.

Q3. How many assaults on staff were reported to PSNI at all Trust venues in each of the past five years?

Response:

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of 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.

Furthermore, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, we can advise that it would require an extensive manual review of all records just to ascertain if information relevant to your request is held. As such, we advise that there is no way to refine this request to bring it within the appropriate limit.

Q4: How many days were lost due to staff absence in the aftermath of assaults?

Response:

Number of Calendar Days Lost and Absence Hours Lost due to Episodes of Sickness with absence reason 'Untoward Incident/Violence at Work' or additional absence reason 'Aggression / Assault' each year, excluding Bank Staff

Notes

- There could be other episodes of sickness absence due to incidents at work during the period that haven't been recorded as such on HRPTS and therefore are not included in the figures below, and it is impossible for us to indicate the extent of this potential under representation of absence due to assaults.

- Absence Hours is based on the Absence Hours during the reporting period as calculated by HRPTS based on individual staffs working patterns.

- Figures exclude Bank Staff and details are based on episodes of sickness therefore multiple postholders absent across all posts held will be included more than once in the figures.

Year	Calendar Days Lost (In Year)	Absence Hours Lost (In Year)
2021/22	1,206	6,370.80
2022/23	1,426	6,601.55
2023/24	1,947	8,802.48
2024/25	1,818	9,013.00
2025/26	1,701	8,551.80

Q5. What services are available to staff who are the victim of assault?

Response:

Services available from OH Psychology:

- Psychological debrief for individuals/groups affected by workplace incidents, which may include assaults to staff.

- Supportive/reflective sessions for teams are also available for staff groups who are contending with workplace challenges which may include assault from service users.
- Individual psychological therapy such as EMDR is also available for staff who have been subject to assault whilst at work.