

FOI 1473

14.04.2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question

The Health Care System is both hospitals, Craigavon and Daisy Hill Hospitals, so all assaults on health care staff over all departments in both these hospitals. A total number of assaults from 1st January 2021 to 31st October 2022.

Then I need a break down on these assaults by type e.g. verbal and physical abuse e.g. broken bones, bites (with and without broken skin) bruises, sexual assault, spitting, black eyes etc.

SHSCT Response:

Incidents are reported via the Datix Risk Management System (Datix).

Incidents are coded using a coding structure CCS2, this is used regionally by all Health and Social Care Trusts.

A search was completed of reported incidents within Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital between 1st January 2021 and 31st October 2022 coded as:

- Staff Incident
- Behaviour (Including Violence and Aggression)
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Patient or Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Visitor or Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by staff

Unfortunately the coding structure is unable to breakdown the incidents by the type the requestor has asked for e.g. broken bones, bites (with and without broken skin) bruises, sexual assault, spitting, black eyes etc.

A breakdown has been provided to identify the type of abuse as per the CCS2 coding. Where the number of incidents was less than 5, the exact number has been redacted to protect the identity of the staff member.

Craigavon Area Hospital – Total Number of Incidents 1855

Reported Date of Incident	Classification of Incident						
	Physical contact (actual assault)	Physical threat (no contact)	Psychological abuse (bullying and harassment)	Sexual (including harassment and indecent exposure)	Verbal Abuse	Verbal abuse with gender content	Verbal abuse with racial content
2021							
Jan	33	31		<5	17		
Feb	52	30	<5	6	9		<5
Mar	25	25		<5	12		
Apr	33	36		<5	6		<5
May	38	41		6	23		<5
Jun	37	29		<5	13		
Jul	49	33		<5	9	<5	<5
Aug	53	40		5	14		
Sep	40	33		<5	10		
Oct	27	27			9		
Nov	31	19		<5	17		<5
Dec	23	19			12		<5
2022							
Jan	19	22		<5	17		
Feb	29	27		<5	14		<5
Mar	33	21		<5	13		
Apr	48	34		<5	17		
May	43	21		<5	15		
Jun	41	16		<5	13		
Jul	25	20		6	19		<5
Aug	63	37		5	19		<5
Sep	59	32		<5	17		<5
Oct	32	28	5		21		6



Daisy Hill Hospital – Total Number of Incidents 145

Reported Date of Incident	Classification of Incident					
	Physical contact (actual assault)	Physical threat (no contact)	Psychological abuse (bullying and harassment)	Sexual (including harassment and indecent exposure)	Verbal Abuse	Verbal abuse with racial content
2021						
Jan	<5					
Feb	<5	<5			<5	
Mar	<5					
Apr	6			<5	<5	
May	5				<5	
Jun	8	<5			<5	
Jul	6				<5	
Aug	8	<5				
Sep	5	<5				
Oct	5				<5	
Nov	8	<5				
Dec	<5	<5			<5	
2022						
Jan	<5					<5
Feb	<5					
Mar	<5					
Apr	<5	<5				
May	<5	<5	<5		<5	
Jun	7	<5			<5	
Jul	7				<5	
Aug	5	<5			<5	
Sep	7	<5			<5	
Oct	10	<5			<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 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.

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