

FOI 1634

15th May 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

(1) Can each health trust please provide figures for how many assaults have taken place on your hospital sites over the last five years?

The SHSCT use CCS coding to theme incidents reported on the Datix Risk Management System. In April 2019, all Northern Ireland Trusts moved from CCS1 coding to CCS2 coding. An explanation of the codes used to identify the incidents is provided below. Please note for the purpose of this FOI, a full search of all Incidents across all sites including the Community has been completed.

Financial Year	Number of Incidents Reported and Coded as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse – other • Abuse by the staff to the patient • Abuse etc of patient by patient • Abuse etc of staff by patients • Abuse of staff by other staff
01/03/2018 – 31/03/2019	3703
Financial Year	Number of Incidents Reported and Coded as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 a Visitor by a Patient • Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards a Visitor by Staff

01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020	3571
01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021	3092
01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	3400
01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	3449

(2) Can that be broken down into each year, showing the nature of the assault (ie violent, sexual assault, rape, murder) and into each hospital site?

The breakdown provided is reported by the CCS1 or CCS2 code.

01/04/2018 – 31/03/2019 (CCS1)

Breakdown of Incident	Craigavon Area Hospital	Daisy Hill Hospital	Community/Independent Sector	Lurgan Hospital	South Tyrone Hospital	St Lukes Hospital
Physical abuse, assault or violence	1015	46	1137	87	12	122
Verbal abuse or disruption	638	55	393	25	21	23
Sexual	20		39	Less than 5	Less than 5	5
Assault etc with a weapon	25	Less than 5	26	Less than 5		Less than 5
Racial	Less than 5		Less than 5			

01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020 (CCS2)

Breakdown of Incident	Craigavon Area Hospital	Daisy Hill Hospital	Community/Independent Sector	Lurgan Hospital	South Tyrone Hospital	St Lukes Hospital
Physical contact (actual assault)	735	25	687	26	34	74
Physical threat (No contact)	435	7	150	Less than 5	9	25
Verbal Abuse	263	22	208	6	10	Less than 5
Physical	189	9	205	5	Less than 5	30
Verbal	103	6	118	Less than 5		12
Sexual (including indecent exposure)	21	Less than 5	31			
Sexual (including harassment and indecent exposure)	31		7	Less than 5		Less than 5
Psychological abuse (bullying and harassment)	14	Less than 5	18			Less than 5
Verbal abuse with racial content	17		Less than 5		Less than 5	
Verbal with disability content	Less than 5		Less than 5			
Verbal with gender content	Less than 5					
Verbal abuse with gender content	Less than 5					
Verbal with racial content	Less than 5		Less than 5			

01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021 (CCS2)

Breakdown of Incident	Craigavon Area Hospital	Daisy Hill Hospital	Community/Independent Sector	Lurgan Hospital	South Tyrone Hospital	St Lukes Hospital
Physical contact (actual assault)	509	76	620	44	Less than 5	97
Physical threat (No contact)	423	9	114	6		53
Physical	156	8	195	19		18
Verbal Abuse	199	8	136	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Verbal	87	40	76	Less than 5		Less than 5
Sexual (including harassment and indecent exposure)	43	Less than 5	39		Less than 5	
Sexual (including indecent exposure)	21	Less than 5	29			Less than 5
Psychological abuse (bullying and harassment)	6	Less than 5	12			Less than 5
Verbal abuse with racial content	10		Less than 5			
Verbal with racial content	Less than 5		Less than 5			
Verbal with disability content			Less than 5			
Verbal abuse with gender content	Less than 5					
Uncoded	Less than 5					

01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022 (CCS2)

Breakdown of Incident	Craigavon Area Hospital	Daisy Hill Hospital	Community/Independent Sector	Lurgan Hospital	South Tyrone Hospital	St Lukes Hospital
Physical contact (actual assault)	521	66	786	42	21	57
Physical threat (No contact)	400	9	181	Less than 5	6	24
Verbal	72	213	133	8	Less than 5	Less than 5
Verbal Abuse	157	8	166	10	9	9
Physical	115	14	145	21	Less than 5	30
Sexual (including harassment and indecent exposure)	24	Less than 5	32	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Sexual (including indecent exposure)	25		31	Less than 5		Less than 5
Psychological abuse (bullying and harassment)	Less than 5		19		Less than 5	Less than 5
Verbal abuse with racial content	8	Less than 5	Less than 5			
Verbal with racial content	Less than 5		Less than 5			
Verbal with disability content			Less than 5			
Verbal abuse with gender content	Less than 5		Less than 5			
Verbal abuse with disability content			Less than 5			
Uncoded			Less than 5			

01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023 (CCS2)

Breakdown of Incident	Craigavon Area Hospital	Daisy Hill Hospital	Community/Independent Sector	Lurgan Hospital	South Tyrone Hospital	St Lukes Hospital
Physical contact (actual assault)	628	93	726	40	41	20
Physical threat (No contact)	398	14	153	5	12	less than 5
Verbal Abuse	202	18	150	19	9	6
Physical	143	less than 5	193	less than 5	14	less than 5
Verbal	93	118	119	5	less than 5	less than 5
Sexual (including harassment and indecent exposure)	31	less than 5	24	less than 5		5
Verbal abuse with racial content	25	less than 5	less than 5			
Sexual (including indecent exposure)	20	less than 5	49		less than 5	less than 5
Psychological abuse (bullying and harassment)	17	less than 5	18	less than 5		
Verbal with disability content	less than 5		less than 5			
Uncoded	less than 5	less than 5	less than 5			
Verbal with gender content			less than 5			
Verbal abuse with disability content			less than 5			
Verbal abuse with gender content			less than 5			

(3)How many staff members, patients and members of the public were involved?

The table below displays the number of different 'contact' IDs assigned to each Incident. A 'contact' is a record on the Datix Risk Management system, which may be a staff member, patient/service user, relative etc. On review of these incidents, on occasion, there are duplicate contacts within the incident. To remove these duplicates would be a manual exercise and would exceed the 18 hour exemption limit.

Financial Year	Number of Contact records against the incidents listed in response 1 and 2.
01/04/2018 – 31/03/2019	10,700
01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020	6,720
01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021	6,155
01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	7,258
01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	6,553

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.

Unfortunately we are unable to remove the duplicate contacts 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. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. In order to obtain this information and it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

(4)Can you show what action has been taken in relation to cases? This would require a manual search of every incident and would exceed the 18 hour exemption limit.

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.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information you are requesting 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. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. In order to obtain this information and it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

(5)Have any workers been dismissed or disciplined as a result of assaults?



Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Year	No. of Employees dismissed or disciplined as a result of assaults
2018/19	<5
2019/20	0
2020/21	0
2021/22	0
2022/23	<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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