

FOI 2113

7th February 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1:

How many nurses and doctors/healthcare professionals in Craigavon Area & Daisy Hill Hospitals have been assaulted (minor to major) in the process of carrying out their duties from assailants/offenders from 1st April 2022 until 31st December 2023.

Response:

The SHSCT uses CCS coding to theme incidents reported on the Datix Risk Management System. The information provided is the number of nurses/doctors/healthcare professionals which have been recorded against an incident which has been coded as:

- 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

Please note, if a nurse/doctor/healthcare professional is recorded on an incident as they witnessed the assault, these staff members will be included in the number below. To exclude these staff members would require a manual exercise and would exceed the time threshold for FOI requests.

Between 1st April 2022 and 31st December 2023, there were 997 nurses/doctors/healthcare professionals recorded on the Datix system as being involved in an incident graded between Minor and Major coded as described above. Please note these incidents include both founded and alleged assaults.

Question 2:

Can you also give me a breakdown of these injuries.

Response:

To identify the injuries associated to these incidents would require a manual exercise which would exceed the time threshold for FOI requests.

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 have requested 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.

If you are able to refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Please contact us for advice and assistance on refining your request if required.

Email: FOI.team@southerntrust.hscni.net