

FOI 2201

6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

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**Q1. All assaults on doctors and nurses and other healthcare professionals who deal with patients who have assaulted staff in the Southern Trust's Health Care System in the process of carrying out their duties from 1st November 2022 until 31st December 2023. A total figure will suffice.**

To review each incident would exceed the time threshold of FOI requests as the information is not centrally collated and we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as the Southern Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours or more in determining whether we hold the information locating retrieving and extracting the information.

The response has provided the number of incidents which relate to the assaults on staff.

The SHSCT uses CCS 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 or
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Visitor or
- Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by Staff

There were 3192 incidents reported between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 on the Datix system coded as above. Please note these incidents include both founded and alleged assaults.

**Q2. A breakdown on the types of assaults from minor to major with figures on each of the healthcare staff at the above hospitals e.g. cuts & bruises, spitting, punches, kicking, bitten, broken limbs, dislocations, black eyes etc.**

It is not possible to identify the injuries associated to these incidents as this information is not centrally collated and we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as the Southern Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours or more in determining whether we hold the information locating retrieving and extracting the information.

A breakdown of the severity of the incidents has been provided:

<b>Severity of the Incident</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>
Insignificant	2045
Minor	1108
Moderate	36
Major	3
Grand Total	3192

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