



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-760

Date: 1st April 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 15th March 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding violence and abuse against NHS staff.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 I am writing to make an open government request to all the information from your trust to which I am entitled to under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – regarding physical and non-physical assaults against NHS Staff.

This is a follow-up to the data previously released to and published by Unison and the Health Service Journal for the year 2016-2017, so please release the data I am requesting with the same parameters used in this previous data for the year 2017-2018.

The questions below are in order of importance; if answering these questions is likely to exceed the cost and time limit for responding to an FOI please answer them in order until these limits have been met. I would like to request the following:

- 1. 1) The total number of physical assaults on staff for the following time periods:**
 - **2017-2018**
 - **2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available**

By physical assaults on staff I refer to the definition used in the NHS Protect 2016 Guidance: “the intentional application of force against the person without lawful justification resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort. Spitting is included in the definition of a physical assault.”

A1 Please see below:

2017/18	239
2018/19 (Up to 18.03.19)	222

Q2 If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods.

The total number of non-physical assaults on staff for the following time periods:

- **2017-2018**
- **2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available**

By non-physical assaults on staff I refer to the definition used in the NHS Protect 2016 Guidance: “the use of inappropriate words or behaviour causing distress and/or constituting harassment. Non-physical assault includes: offensive or obscene language; verbal abuse and swearing; brandishing weapons, or objects which could be used as weapons; attempted assaults; offensive gestures; threats; intimidation; harassment or stalking; damage to buildings equipment or vehicles which causes fear for personal safety; offensive language or behaviour related to a person’s, race, gender, nationality, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation; inappropriate sexual language or behaviour.”

If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods.

If possible, could you please release answers to each question as soon as possible (rather than in one overall response). If FOI requests of a similar nature have already been asked could you please include your responses to those requests. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

A2 Please see below:

2017/18	666
2018/19 (Up to 18.03.19)	280

Other FOI requests regarding assaults on staff are exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust’s public website at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust’s FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance