



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-177

Date: 19th July 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 21st June 2021 (received into our office 22nd June) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding assaults.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in question 3 is not held centrally, but may be recorded free text section of the incident report; therefore would require scrutiny of each report. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all free text section of the incident report; therefore would require scrutiny of each report within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all reports and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide me with the following information (most likely as reported through the Security Incident Reporting System (SIRS)):

The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21 (financial years from April to March)

A1 See below

- 2020/21: 260
- 2019/20: 241
- 2018/19: 232

Q2 The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded that involved medical factors in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A2 See below

- 2020/21: 172
- 2019/20: 154
- 2018/19: 185

Q3 The total number of times physical injury to staff was caused in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A3 If staff are injured they record this within the free text section of the incident report; therefore would require scrutiny of each report= section 12 exemption as detailed above

Q4 The total number of times restraint was used following a physical assault on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A4 See below

- 2020/21: 169
- 2019/20: 128
- 2018/19: 123

Q5 The total number of times was seclusion used following a physical assault on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A5 Not applicable

Q6 Total number of criminal sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A6 see below

- 2020/21: 4
- 2019/20: 5
- 2018/19: 3

Q7 Total number of civil and administrative sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A7 Information not held by UHNM

Q8 The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as charge in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A8 As answer 7

Q9 The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as verbal warning in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A9 As answer 7

Q10 The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as no action in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A10 As answer 7

Q11 The total number of times it was recorded that the victim did not want police to pursue the matter in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21

A11 As answer 7

Q12 Total number of staff reported by the Trust at March 31, 2019, March 31, 2020 and at March 31, 2021.

A12 Data as at March 31, 2019, March 31, 2020 is provided in the published Trust Annual Reports available at <https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/annual-reports-and-accounts/>

At 31 March 2021, we had a workforce of 10145.04 WTE (**11513 headcount**). This is excluding staff on secondment, ROE workers, bank workers, contracted and agency workers and honorary contracts.

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

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

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.

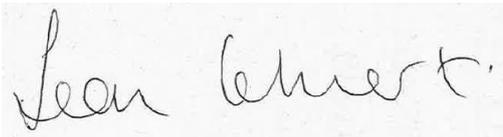
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager