



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital

**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**

Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-529

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Tel: 01782 676474  
Email [FOI@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding assaults on staff.

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 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records 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 health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

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 your request is shortened to just questions 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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 2016/17 (financial year from April 2016 to March 2017) and in 2017/18 (financial year from April 2017 to March 2018)**

A1 The information provided is for the number of reported physical assaults following the definitions as defined by NHS Protect (see answer 3). This information is for UHNM and therefore both sites (inclusive of Sodexo staff)

Year	Number of reported
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	physical assaults
2016/17	287
2017/18	239

**Q2 The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded that involved medical factors in 2016/17 and in 2017/18**

A2 Please see below:

Year	Number involving medical factors
2016/17	167
2017/18	194

**Q3 The total number of times physical injury was caused in 2016/17 and in 2017/18**

A3 Information not held: Under the definition as described by NHS Protect, that to have met the criteria to be reported in the figures, the result on the injured person? Is either a *physical injury* or *physical discomfort*, therefore physical assaults that did not result in either result on the IP are not counted.

*“The common definition of physical assault against staff for recording and reporting purposes, is shown below, and replaces any definitions of a physical assault previously in use across the NHS: ‘The intentional application of force against the person of another without lawful justification, resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort.’*

**Q4 The total number of times was restraint used following a physical assault in 2016/17 and in 2017/18**

A4 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

**Q5 The total number of times was seclusion used following a physical assault in 2016/17 and in 2017/18**

A5 UHNM is an acute Trust; seclusion is not a facility that is utilised here.

**Q6 Total number of criminal sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults in 2016/17 and 2017/18**

A6 Please see below:

Year	Criminal Sanctions Obtained
2016/17	2
2017/18	1

**Q7 Total number of civil and administrative sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults in 2016/17 and 2017/18**

A7 Please see below for sanctions that have been recorded

Year	Civil and Admin
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	sanctions
2016/17	1
2017/18	0

**Q8 The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults was recorded as charge in 2016/17 and 2017/18.**

A8 Information not held by UHNM

**Q9 The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults was recorded as verbal warning in 2016/17 and 2017/18.**

A9 Information not held by UHNM

**Q10 The total number of times it was recorded that the victim did not want police to pursue the matter in relation to physical assaults in 2016/17 and 2017/18.**

A10 Information not held by UHNM

**Q11 Total number of staff reported by the Trust at March 31, 2017 and at March 31, 2018.**

A11 Please see below:

	Headcount	FTE
31/03/2017	10914	9603.24
31/03/2018	10864	9545.32

\*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.***

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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](http://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**