

3 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 465

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Assaults on HSC Staff.**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above, which you requested on 6 January 2025.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the Office of the Medical Director and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Officer

Q1. Can I have the total number of assaults on HSC staff by members of the public/patients within the South Eastern Trust hospitals (with and without injury) from 1st January 2024 until 31st December 2024?

A1. From 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2024, there have been 1193 incidents recorded for assaults on HSC staff, by members of the public/patients within Trust hospitals.