

16 April 2019

Our Ref: RFI 27924

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Violence and Abuse Against NHS 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 was received on 20 March 2019.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Directorate 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

Jane McCormick
Information Governance Assistant

RFI 27924

Appendix A

**Q1. 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 intentional application of force against the person without lawful justification resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort. Spitting is included in this definition of a physical assault. (This definition was given in NHS Protect England's 2016 Guidance.)
If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods.**

A1. Please see Table 1 on the next page.

Table 1

Physical Assaults on staff by Adverse event/Staff Grouping and Incident date(Financial Year)			
	17/18	18/19	Total
Admin & Clerical	1	0	1
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	1	0	1
Physical abuse, assault or violence	0	0	0
Throwing objects aggressively	0	0	0
Ancillary & General	295	109	404
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	202	64	266
Physical abuse, assault or violence	90	44	134
Use of Restraint	0	0	0
Throwing objects aggressively	3	1	4
Assault etc with a weapon	0	0	0
Ancillary & General (Agency)	9	3	12
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	8	2	10
Physical abuse, assault or violence	1	1	2
Throwing objects aggressively	0	0	0
Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting	229	213	442
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	42	78	120
Actual Physical Abuse of Staff by visitors/relatives	0	1	1
Physical abuse, assault or violence	180	125	305
Use of Restraint	0	0	0
Throwing objects aggressively	6	8	14
Assault etc with a weapon	1	1	2
Nursing Midwifery & Health Visiting (Agency)	3	1	4
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	1	1
Physical abuse, assault or violence	2	0	2
Throwing objects aggressively	1	0	1
Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (Students)	4	4	8
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	1	2	3
Physical abuse, assault or violence	3	2	5
Throwing objects aggressively	0	0	0
Social Work	678	834	1512
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	462	544	1006
Actual Physical Abuse of Staff by visitors/relatives	0	3	3
Physical abuse, assault or violence	196	265	461
Use of Restraint	2	1	3
Throwing objects aggressively	16	19	35
Assault etc with a weapon	2	2	4
Professional & Technical	10	6	16
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	2	2
Physical abuse, assault or violence	8	4	12
Throwing objects aggressively	2	0	2
Medical & Dental	8	5	13
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	3	3
Physical abuse, assault or violence	7	2	9
Throwing objects aggressively	1	0	1
Medical & Dental (QUB Students)	2	0	2
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	0	0
Physical abuse, assault or violence	2	0	2
Medical & Dental Students (not QUB)	0	0	0
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	0	0
Physical abuse, assault or violence	0	0	0
Ambulance Service	0	0	0
Physical abuse, assault or violence	0	0	0
General Management	2	0	2
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	2	0	2
Physical abuse, assault or violence	0	0	0
Throwing objects aggressively	0	0	0
Totals:	1241	1175	2416

Q2. 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 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. (This definition was given in NHS Protect England's 2016 Guidance.)
If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods

A2. Please see Table 2 on the next page.

Table 2

Physical Assaults on staff by Adverse event/Staff Grouping and Incident date(Financial Year)			
	17/18	18/19	Total
Admin & Clerical	1	0	1
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	1	0	1
Physical abuse, assault or violence	0	0	0
Throwing objects aggressively	0	0	0
Ancillary & General	295	109	404
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	202	64	266
Physical abuse, assault or violence	90	44	134
Use of Restraint	0	0	0
Throwing objects aggressively	3	1	4
Assault etc with a weapon	0	0	0
Ancillary & General (Agency)	9	3	12
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	8	2	10
Physical abuse, assault or violence	1	1	2
Throwing objects aggressively	0	0	0
Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting	229	213	442
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	42	78	120
Actual Physical Abuse of Staff by visitors/relatives	0	1	1
Physical abuse, assault or violence	180	125	305
Use of Restraint	0	0	0
Throwing objects aggressively	6	8	14
Assault etc with a weapon	1	1	2
Nursing Midwifery & Health Visiting (Agency)	3	1	4
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	1	1
Physical abuse, assault or violence	2	0	2
Throwing objects aggressively	1	0	1
Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (Students)	4	4	8
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	1	2	3
Physical abuse, assault or violence	3	2	5
Throwing objects aggressively	0	0	0
Social Work	678	834	1512
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	462	544	1006
Actual Physical Abuse of Staff by visitors/relatives	0	3	3
Physical abuse, assault or violence	196	265	461
Use of Restraint	2	1	3
Throwing objects aggressively	16	19	35
Assault etc with a weapon	2	2	4
Professional & Technical	10	6	16
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	2	2
Physical abuse, assault or violence	8	4	12
Throwing objects aggressively	2	0	2
Medical & Dental	8	5	13
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	3	3
Physical abuse, assault or violence	7	2	9
Throwing objects aggressively	1	0	1
Medical & Dental (QUB Students)	2	0	2
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	0	0
Physical abuse, assault or violence	2	0	2
Medical & Dental Students (not QUB)	0	0	0
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	0	0	0
Physical abuse, assault or violence	0	0	0
Ambulance Service	0	0	0
Physical abuse, assault or violence	0	0	0
General Management	2	0	2
Actual/Alleged Physical Abuse/assault (due to client group)	2	0	2
Physical abuse, assault or violence	0	0	0
Throwing objects aggressively	0	0	0
Totals:	1241	1175	2416