

**Our Ref:** RFI 56323

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Assaults on Trust 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 above which you requested on 5 February 2024.

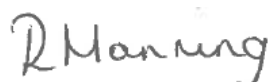
A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Medical Directors Office and is attached in Appendix A.

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](mailto: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



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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. All assaults on doctors and nurses and other healthcare professionals who deal with patients who have assaulted staff in the South Eastern Trust's Health Care System in the process of carrying out their duties from 1st November 2022 until 31st December 2023, for the Ulster, Downe and Lagan Valley hospitals. A total figure will suffice.**

A1. A total number of 1316 incidents occurred during this period which involved 1702 staff.

Please note that all incidents are coded and the figures provided relate to reported incidents within Ulster, Downe and Lagan Valley hospitals of Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour towards Staff by a Patient. Types of assault included are Physical, Psychological, Sexual and Verbal.

**Q2. A breakdown on the types of assaults from minor to major with figures on each of the healthcare staff at the above hospitals e.g. cuts & bruises, spitting, punches, kicking, bitten, broken limbs, dislocations, black eyes etc.**

A2. Please see Table 1 for the breakdown of injury, minor to major severity, by location.

Table 1

Injury Category	Downe Hospital	Downshire Hospital	Lagan Valley Hospital	Ulster Hospital	Total
Abrasion	8	6	7	11	<b>32</b>
Asphyxiation	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	<b>1</b>
Bite	1	4	1	1	<b>7</b>
Bruise	3	6	8	14	<b>31</b>
Burn	1	Nil	1	Nil	<b>2</b>
Crush Injury	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	<b>3</b>
Fracture	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	<b>2</b>
Laceration	3	3	1	3	<b>10</b>
Ligament/Tendon Damage	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	<b>1</b>
Other Injury	1	1	15	14	<b>31</b>
Pain	24	25	18	36	<b>103</b>
Psychological	Nil	1	5	3	<b>9</b>
Puncture	Nil	1	1	1	<b>3</b>
Shock	Nil	1	2	3	<b>6</b>
Sprain/Strain	3	Nil	1	5	<b>9</b>