

Ref no: 031130919
From: Public
Date: 13/09/19
Subject: Violent incidents against staff at the trust's A&E departments

REQUEST

Please can you tell me how many violent incidents against staff at the trust's A&E departments have been recorded each year over the past five years.

Please include the nature of the violence (e.g. verbal, physical), whether the police were called and what action was taken against the perpetrator.

RESPONSE

Please see below table of incidents over the past 5 years that has been recorded in A&E Department.

Regarding the actions (Police) this information is recorded on Datix via the action section of the Datix form. The Datix form can be completed without this section having been filled in, although this is against Trust policy. Therefore the only way this information can be collected is by hand trailing though the forms which would be a fairly significant task.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Assault etc with a weapon	0	0	*5 or less	*5 or less	0
Physical abuse, assault or violence	11	24	32	9	17
Racial	*5 or less	*5 or less	*5 or less	*5 or less	*5 or less
Sexual	*5 or less	*5 or less	*5 or less	0	*5 or less
Verbal abuse or disruption	28	35	34	37	15

*We are unable to provide precise figures when these are five or less due to the risk that individuals will be identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the Data Protection Act. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

