

Ref no: 045040219
From: Public
Date: 04/02/19
Subject: Knife injuries

REQUEST & RESPONSE

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. How many people have been treated for serious knife injuries (those which require stitches or worse)?
2. How many people have been treated for life threatening knife injuries?
3. How many people have been treated for multiple knife injuries in the same attack?

We are only able answer if the patient has been admitted and diagnosed with a knife wound, we cannot determine if they are serious, life threatening or multiple due to the cost of extracting this information.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in answering the remainder of your questions.

Number of patients diagnosed with a Knife Injury by Assault:

	Number of Patients	Minimum Age	Maximum Age
2016	59	16	59
2017	93	15	58
2018	77	16	68

4. How many people have been treated for gun/ bullet injuries?

Please provide figures for each year of 2016, 2017 and 2018. Please also provide the age of the youngest and the oldest person treated for the injuries in each question.

Number of patients diagnosed with a Gun Injury by Assault:

	Number of Patients	Minimum Age	Maximum Age
2016	5 or less	69	85
2017	5 or less	17	79
2018	5 or less	20	84

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.