

Ref: FOI/2024/10124

Date Received: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Response Due: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**1. How much money was spent by your trust on private security for the protection of staff in the following years?**

- **2018** - £648,034.
- **2019** - £737,568.
- **2020** - £842,849.
- **2021** - £935,890.
- **2022** - £1,176,816.
- **2023** - £1,059,935.

\*This is the value spent on security for the whole trust including staff, general hospital and car parking.

**2. How many attacks were recorded on members hospital/ambulance staff by non-hospital staff in the same years?**

- **2018** - 342
- **2019** - 416
- **2020** - 313
- **2021** - 370
- **2022** - 375
- **2023** - 415

**3. If recorded, what was the nature of these incidents (verbal/physical/racial etc)?**

Please see the table on the next page.

<b>Year / Nature of the Incident</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Aggressive / Disruptive Behaviour	123	128	100	126	88	120
Hate Crime Race or Ethnicity	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	9
Hate Crime Religion or Belief		<5				<5
Hate Crime Sexual Orientation		2	<5		<5	
Physical Abuse	<5	<5	<5	<5	6	<5
Physical Violence	102	158	120	124	154	176
Racial Abuse	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Sexual Abuse	<5	9	<5	13	5	8
Verbal Abuse	104	105	79	96	112	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>415</b>

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner  
Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111