



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2023/8938

Date Received: 31st May 2023

Response Due: 28th June 2023

Date: 26th June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide me with the following information:

1. The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)

- 2021/2022
 - Service User on Staff = 45
 - Staff on Staff = <5
- 2022/2023
 - Service User on Staff = 36
 - Staff on Staff = 6

Totals not included as they make individuals involved identifiable.

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

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).

2. The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded that involved medical factors in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)

- 2021/2022 = 75 total
(This is only service user on staff – no staff-on-staff category that involved medical factors)
- 2022/2023 = 116 total
(This is only service user on staff – no staff-on-staff category that involved medical factors)

3. The total number of times physical injury to staff was recorded following physical assaults in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31). If possible, please break down the number of injuries reported by severe/major, moderate, and low/minor.

	No Harm	Low/Minor Harm	Moderate Harm	Severe Harm	Catastrophic/Death
2021/2022	28	20	0	<5	0
Service user on Staff	27	17	0	<5	0
Staff on Staff	<5	<5	0	0	0
<hr/>					
2022/2023 = 42 Total	18	20	<5	0	0
Service user on Staff	17	17	<5	0	0
Staff on Staff	<5	<5	<5	0	0

4. The total number of times restraint was used on a service user/patient following a physical assault on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).

The Trust is unable to provide this information as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual patient case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

5. The total number of times was seclusion used on a service user/patient following a physical assault on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).

Please see our response to question 4 of your request.

6. Total number of criminal sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).

Please see our response to question 4 of your request.

7. Total number of civil and administrative sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).

Please see our response to question 4 of your request.

8. The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as charge in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)

Please see our response to question 4 of your request.

9. The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as verbal warning in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)

Please see our response to question 4 of your request.

10. The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as no action in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)

Please see our response to question 4 of your request.

11. The total number of times it was recorded that the victim did not want police to pursue the matter in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)

Please see our response to question 4 of your request.

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,



Rabina Tindale
Chief Nurse & DIPC

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