

FOI 0457/2024 Request

- 1. Provide the number of physical assaults against hospital staff by patients and members of the public on the Trusts premises for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?**

Please see the table below and note the following:

- The table lists the number of physical assaults on staff (by patients/3rd parties) on Trust premises between 2019 and 2023.
- From 2020, the Trust began recording instances of sexual assault on the Trust's incident reporting platform, therefore sexual assaults on staff have also been included in the figures above.

| Year | Assaults |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 2019 | 1638 |
| 2020 | 1592 |
| 2021 | 1408 |
| 2022 | 1615 |
| 2023 | 1797 |

- 2. How many of these physical assaults were reported to the police for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?**

The Trust is unable to provide a response to this query.

This is because our reporting system does not capture the requested information.

- 3. If you hold this data, how many had a criminal justice outcome (e.g. cautioned, charged, taken to court) for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?**

The Trust is unable to provide a response to this query.

This is because our reporting system does not capture the requested information.

- 4. Since 2019 has the Trust introduced any additional measures to try to reduce the number of physical assaults against hospital staff? If so, please specify what measures have been taken e.g. body cameras, CCTV in clinical areas, more security guards etc?**

The Trust have in place CCTV and contracted security staff.

For the CCTV system the following should be noted:

- CCTV is purely used for the prevention and detection of criminal incidents, as well as supporting the Trust with internal investigations.
- Our CCTV is not installed within clinical areas and we do not have Body Worn CCTV cameras.
- The only exception where a CCTV system would be located within a clinical area is our seclusion suites. Due to the sensitivity of these areas, as well as risks of intrusion to the privacy and dignity of service users within these suites, these do not record and are completely standalone. This therefore means that they cannot be accessed by anyone other than duty staff within the seclusion suite. The sole purpose of these standalone systems is to allow observing staff to safely see within the seclusion rooms in instances where the service user has obscured the door vision panels.

For the contracted security staff please note:

- Their specific role is to provide a visible deterrent and prevent criminal and anti-social behaviours within our buildings and grounds.
- They are not trained nor expected to intervene or lead in clinical incidents where service users are being verbally or physically abusive. This is the responsibility of our appropriately trained clinical staff. In the event security were present, and there was an immediate risk of significant harm or threat to life, then any intervention would be under common law. However, their primary function is to summon the assistance of the police, whilst providing additional support by keeping such areas clear to allow clinical staff to respond.
- The Trust also have contracted security officers within inpatient hubs at the point of entry who undertake safety checks of those entering these buildings, to mitigate the risks of weapons and contraband being brought into our buildings. This role is separate to the existing contracted security service.

In addition to this, the Trust have and continue to work closely with West Midlands Police since 2016 to address incidents of assault against our colleagues.

Specific policies have been developed and implemented over time, such as the Trust's Police Interventions Policy and Management of Unacceptable Behaviours Policy.

Policies are constantly reviewed to ensure that the Trust, supported by West Midlands Police, have an effective framework in place to support our colleagues when it comes verbal, physical abuse and hate crime.