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Request for Information Reference: 10.21.49

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Email only

9 November 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 28 October 2021 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to assaults against NHS staff and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. The total number of physical assaults against NHS staff from members of the public and patients that occurred during 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Please see the below table and note that physical assaults includes sexual abuse and restraints where it was physical in nature and impacted staff.

Period	Physical Assaults
1 st January 2019 – 31 st December 2019	293
1 st January 2020 – 31 st December 2020	227
1 st January 2021 – 31 st October 2021	220

2. The total number of verbal assaults against NHS staff from members of the public and patients that occurred during 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Please see the table overleaf and note that verbal abuse includes racial abuse where it was verbal in nature and impacted on staff.

Period	Verbal Abuse
1 st January 2019 – 31 st December	387

2019	
1 st January 2020 – 31 st December 2020	302
1 st January 2021 – 31 st October 2021	303

3. Can you provide any more detail surrounding the nature of these incidents?

Due to the way in which the Trust records this information, physical or verbal abuse are the reportable sub categories available through the system and have already been provided in questions 1 and 2. Therefore in order to answer this question each individual incident would need to be reviewed. To collate the data would exceed the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

In line with the Information Commissioner’s directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust’s website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I am sorry that I have not been able to provide all of the information you requested, however I hope that my explanation as to why this is not possible has been satisfactory. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddffoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator