

# Request title:

## Physical attacks carried out on Trust premises

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Date of Response: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

### Request and reply

I would like to request information about physical attacks on premises owned by your trust. By 'physical attacks' I mean records of any physical attack by one person on another person reported to or collected by your trust, or reported by your trust to the police or any other law enforcement agency.

- 1) For each of the last five years, please provide the total number of physical attacks by patients on
- patients
  - staff
  - visitors
  - on premises owned by your trust and the total amount of compensation paid out by your trust for physical attacks in each case.

The Trust is not able to provide this information, due to the fact that its electronic incident recording system doesn't separate violence and aggression data in to the requested fields, i.e. patient on staff, staff on staff and so on. However, this is something that the Trust is currently undertaking and so will be able to provide this level of data in the future.

- 2) For each of the last five years, please provide the number of attacks by staff on
- patients
  - staff
  - visitors
  - on premises owned by your trust and the total amount of compensation paid out by your trust for physical attacks in each case.

The Trust is not able to provide this information, due to the fact that its electronic incident recording system doesn't separate violence and aggression data in to the requested fields, i.e. patient on staff, staff on staff and so on. However, this is something that the Trust is currently undertaking and so will be able to provide this level of data in the future.

- 3) For each of the last five years, please provide the number of physical attacks by visitors on
- patients
  - staff
  - visitors
  - on premises owned by your trust and the total amount of compensation paid out by your trust for physical attacks in each case.

Please release this information to me in a re-useable machine readable format such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, as per recent ICO guidance on datasets:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1151/datasets-foi-guidance.pdf>

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However, you may wish to submit a Freedom of Information request to the police in regard to criminal compensation as the Trust would not have been involved in any matters relating to criminal intentional harm.

Any individual incident of physical aggression or violence regarding patients or visitors on staff is recorded by the Trust. However incidents of physical assault in all cases should be reported to the police by the aggrieved party not the Trust or any other third party acting on their behalf (excluding children). Devon & Cornwall Police will not record details of incidents of this type unless reported by the aggrieved party. The Trust promotes a zero tolerance to any act of violence or aggression and supports criminal prosecution where appropriate. The RD&E will intervene to prevent any act of aggression whilst acting within the law.

Trust can confirm that it does not pay any amount in compensation as all claims are settled and then paid for by the NHS Litigation Authority. If you would like to contact them by following this link:

<http://www.nhsla.com/OtherServices/Pages/FOI.aspx> I am sure that they will be able to provide you with the information that you require.