

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.19.1301

Date Received: 29 October 2019

Information Requested:

I would like to make the following Freedom of Information request to your trust.
In the last three financial years, how many persons (staff and/or patients) have been injured in a physical assault by a patient?

** Please note that former North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEP) and South Essex University Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) merged on 1 April 2017 to become Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT).

1. Please break down by:

- 2016-17 - 302 (SEPT x 302)*

*Please note that the former NEP's incident reporting system has been interrogated in an effort to provide this information. However due to the nature of how the system was configured to record information and the inconsistency of the data, we are unable to provide this detail for incidents reported by that Trust in this time period without conducting a manual trawl of over 1000 incidents. It is estimated this would take at least 2 minutes per incident to establish the details of the people involved, therefore taking in excess of 33 hours. We therefore need to apply the 18 hour exemption.

- 2017-18 - 298

- 2018-19 - 273

2. For each of the years above, please also break down by: how many victims were staff, how many were patients, and how many were above/over the age of 18.

- 2016-17

Patients	-	60 (SEPT x 60 All over 18)*
Staff	-	242 (SEPT x 242 All over 18)

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- 2017-18

Patients - 74 (67 x over 18)
Staff - 224 (All over 18)

• 2018-19

Patients - 83 (77 x over 18)
Staff - 190 (All over 18)

3. For the most recent full financial year (2018-19) - I would be grateful if you could provide a list of injuries sustained – again breaking down by whether the victim was a staff member/patient – and whether they were under or over 18.

The Trust is unable to provide the information requested as this would require a manual trawl of 873 incidents, estimated at being 2 minutes each resulting in the task taking approximately 29 hours.

The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act* (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit).

***Exemption: Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit):**

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
 - (a) by one person, or
 - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

- (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link
<https://eput.nhs.uk>