

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.24.3334
Date Received: 23rd of January 2024

Information Requested:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information:

1. Please can you 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?

The following data is representative of all physical assaults reported on Trust owned properties and reported on the Trust Incident Management system. It should be noted that the Trust has staff located in numerous properties that are not owned by Essex University Foundation Trust and these have not been included.

Year	Count of Physical assaults on Trust property
2019	1002
2020	1238
2021	1063
2022	1211
2023	1514

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

Year	Police called – Yes
2019	96
2020	174
2021	119
2022	137
2023	202

The above data is a count of incidents in which the police were called as recorded on the Trust Incident Management system.

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?

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format, but may be recorded in individual records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in

excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for

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 has implemented the following measures to both deter physical assaults against our staff:

- Deployment of Body Worn Cameras within our inpatient units
- CCTV and other monitoring facilities in clinical areas
- Security Guards on duty in specific locations across our services
- TASSI training (Therapeutic and Safe Interventions De-escalation) relates to the training for staff on safe engagement with violent or aggressive patients.

Applied 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>