

7 October 2019

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI/03387

Thank you for your request concerning assaults on our Mental Health Inpatient Units.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

QUESTION:

I am looking for information about assaults which took place at inpatient mental health facilities. Please can I have the following information:

- **Number of assault(s)**
- **Nature of assault (verbal, physical, both)**
- **Location of assault (ie name of facility, 'X ward')**
- **Assault report(s) (redacted for personal confidentiality as necessary)**

Please could this information be separated into:

- **Assault(s) by patient to another patient**
- **Assault(s) by patient to staff**
- **Assault(s) by staff to patient**

Date range: every month and every year inclusive 1990 - 2019

ANSWER:

We are unable to provide this information within the time limit. To supply the information requested would involve manually reviewing each of the 16,368 assaults reported and to carry out this task would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450¹.

Under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

It is estimated that it would take approximately 10 minutes to manually review each individual incident report to extract the requested information, i.e. 2,728 hours @ £25ph = £68,200.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA I did enquire if we could provide you with 1 years' worth of data. In the past year there have been 1,048 assaults reported. As explained above to provide you with the requested breakdown of just 1 years' worth of data will also exceed the appropriate limit. i.e. 174.66 hours @ £25ph = £4,366.

¹ Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit has been applied

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

