

Reference:	FOI.6282.21
Subject:	Physical assaults on staff
Date of Request:	21 June 2021

Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide me with the following information (most likely as reported through the Security Incident Reporting System (SIRS)):

1. The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21 (financial years from April to March).
2. The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded that involved medical factors in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
3. The total number of times physical injury to staff was caused in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
4. The total number of times restraint was used following a physical assault on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
5. The total number of times was seclusion used following a physical assault on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
6. Total number of criminal sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
7. Total number of civil and administrative sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
8. The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as charge in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
9. The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as verbal warning in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
10. The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as no action in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
11. The total number of times it was recorded that the victim did not want police to pursue the matter in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.
12. Total number of staff (headcount) employed by the trust at 31 March 2019, 31 March 2020 and at 31 March 2021.

Please provide this information as a spreadsheet or CSV file.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the

“appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the information being requested for the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all reported incidents, as this information is not held centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) to some of the questions (as detailed in the attached responses), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, we are required, as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under FoIA. Therefore, the UHB can provide you with some of the information, within the attached spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.

The UHB is unable to provide you with the information for question 5, due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.