

Reference:	FOI.20962.26
Subject:	Violence and aggression incidents
Date of Request:	8 July 2026

Requested:

Please provide the following information for each ED site managed by the Board, broken down by month, between January 2018 and May 2026:

1. Please provide the total number of reported incidents involving violence, aggression, or abusive behaviour in Emergency Departments
2. Where available, please separately categorise [LO1] incidents by type, including:
 - a. Verbal abuse
 - b. threats of violence
 - c. physical assault
 - d. sexual harassment
 - e. discrimination-based abuse (because of: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation)

Please provide the information in Microsoft Excel format where possible.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with some of the requested information as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding the following details under Section 40(2) of the FoIA:

- The information requested for questions 2a - e broken down by month, due to the low number of cases (less than 5). The UHB has therefore provided the information by calendar year.
- Where there is an asterisk (*) the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of cases, due to low numbers (less than 5).
- Where there is a double asterisk (**), the UHB is unable to provide totals as these could be used to calculate the redacted figures.

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

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that 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.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and provides the information it holds below.

The UHB has retrieved data from two (2) different Datix systems, due to the launch of a new system in April 2021. As part of the new system launch, some of the incident coding was amended to

streamline data collection. The UHB is unable to provide you with the information exactly as requested as the recorded categories differ from those requested. However, for the purpose of fulfilling your request as best as possible, some categories have been merged.

1. The UHB confirms five hundred and seven (507) incidents were reported as involving violence, aggression and abusive behaviour in its Emergency Departments, during the period 1 January 2018 to 31 May 2026.
2. The UHB provides the number of incidents reported, broken down by hospital site and year, for the categories recorded, during the period 1 January 2018 to 31 May 2026, within an Excel spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.