

Trust HQ
Edward Jenner Court
1010 Pioneer Avenue
Brockworth
Gloucester
GL3 4AW

Direct Tel: 0300 421 7113
E-mail: 2gnft.Information-Freedom@nhs.net
Website: www.2gether.nhs.uk

10 April 2019

Dear Ms Clifford,

Freedom of Information Request – Ref: FOI 356-1819

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request about assaults against staff. Please find our response below.

1) The total number of physical assaults on staff for the following time periods:

- 2017-2018 – There were 1113 incidents.
- 2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available – There were 1379 incidents.

By physical assaults on staff I refer to the definition used in the NHS Protect 2016 Guidance: “the intentional application of force against the person without lawful justification resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort. Spitting is included in the definition of a physical assault.”

2) If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods.

The total number of non-physical assaults on staff for the following time periods:

- 2017-2018 – There were 408 incidents.
- 2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available – There were 341 incidents.

By non-physical assaults on staff I refer to the definition used in the NHS Protect 2016 Guidance: “the use of inappropriate words or behaviour causing distress and/or constituting harassment. Non-physical assault includes: offensive or obscene language; verbal abuse and swearing; brandishing weapons, or objects which could be used as weapons; attempted assaults; offensive gestures; threats; intimidation; harassment or stalking; damage to buildings equipment or vehicles which causes fear for personal safety; offensive language or behaviour related to a person’s, race, gender, nationality, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation; inappropriate sexual language or behaviour.”

Yours sincerely,

Francis Perrin

FRANCIS PERRIN
Trust Secretariat Support Officer
2gether NHS Foundation Trust

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