

Title:
Physical Assaults

Reference Number: RDF1433-23

Date of Response: 06/06/2023

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide me with the following information:

1. *The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)*
2. *The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded that involved medical factors in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)*
3. *The total number of times physical injury to staff was recorded following physical assaults in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31). If possible, please break down the number of injuries reported by severe/major, moderate, and low/minor.*
4. *The total number of times restraint was used on a service user/patient following a physical assault on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).*
5. *The total number of times was seclusion used on a service user/patient following a physical assault on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).*
6. *Total number of criminal sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).*
7. *Total number of civil and administrative sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).*
8. *The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as charge in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)*
9. *The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as verbal warning in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)*
10. *The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as no action in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)*
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 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)*

Notes:

- Assaults involving medical factors - the number of physical assaults where the perpetrator did not know what they were doing, or did not know what they were doing was wrong due to medical illness, mental ill health, severe learning disability or treatment administered, if noted.
- Restraint used - If in the course of a physical assault incident, the service user/patient had to be restrained - see: <http://www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=4203>
- Seclusion used - If in the course of a physical assault incident, seclusion was used for the service user/patient - see: <http://www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=42033>
- Reported Criminal Sanctions include but are not limited to: Cautions & Conditional Cautions, Community Rehabilitation or Punishment Orders, Conditional Discharges, Fines, Fixed Penalty Notices, Imprisonment (including suspended sentences) and Restorative Justice - as per <https://www.eastamb.nhs.uk/Governance/disclosure-log/Health%20and%20Safety/FOI%20-%2014405%20Reported%20Physical%20Assaults%202015-16.pdf>
- Reported Civil and Administrative Sanctions include but are not limited to: Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, Banning from Premises, Harassment Warning Issued, Injunction, Use of CJIA Powers, Violent Patient Scheme/History Marking Procedure and Warning Letters - as per <https://www.eastamb.nhs.uk/Governance/disclosure-log/Health%20and%20Safety/FOI%20-%2014405%20Reported%20Physical%20Assaults%202015-16.pdf>
- Suppression of small numbers - Previous ICO decision notices where a complaint was upheld in relation to Section 40: [Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Barts Health NHS Trust](#)

Answer: Please see table below:

*Note data was not routinely captured on the legacy system for Northern Services.

**Please note the Trust does not hold the information in full as the Trust relies on feedback from the Police or the victims

No.	Question	2021/22 financial years from April 1 to March 31)	2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)
1.	The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)	493	490
2.	The total number of physical assaults on staff recorded that involved medical factors in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)	*286	232
3.	The total number of times physical injury to staff was recorded following physical assaults in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31). If possible, please break down the number of injuries reported by severe/major, moderate, and low/minor.	Total: 452 Rating NONE: 120 MINOR: 329 MODERATE: 3 MAJOR: NIL	Total: 367 Rating NONE: 113 MINOR: 252 MODERATE: 2 MAJOR: NIL
4.	The total number of times restraint was used on a service user/patient following a physical assault on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).	160	146

5.	<i>The total number of times was seclusion used on a service user/patient following a physical assault on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).</i>	This information is not held by the Trust	This information is not held by the Trust
6.	<i>Total number of criminal sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).</i>	**36 recorded.	**3 recorded.
7.	<i>Total number of civil and administrative sanctions applied in relation to physical assaults on staff in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31).</i>	**10 recorded.	**4 recorded.
8.	<i>The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as charge in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)</i>	This information is not held by the Trust	This information is not held by the Trust
9.	<i>The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as verbal warning in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)</i>	This information is not held by the Trust	This information is not held by the Trust
10.	<i>The total number of times intended police action in relation to physical assaults on staff was recorded as no action in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)</i>	This information is not held by the Trust	This information is not held by the Trust however 1 incident was noted.
11.	<i>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 2021/22 and 2022/23 (financial years from April 1 to March 31)</i>	This information is not held by the Trust	This information is not held by the Trust