

## Title

### Knife wound attendance – Emergency Department.

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Reference Number: RDF2284-24  
Date of Response: 07/03/20 24

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

*I am wondering if you can help me collate these figures, please:*

- 1. How many knife wounds have been treated in your ED departments – year by year over the last six years?*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Northern</i>
<i>2018</i>	19	6
<i>2019</i>	21	11
<i>2020</i>	9	<5
<i>2021</i>	10	6
<i>2022</i>	25	<5
<i>2023</i>	24	8

The Trust applies the following exemption: Section 40 (3) and 40 (2):

Please note\* - \*<5 where activity is 5 or less than 5, the Trust is unable to provide the exact information. We consider the data exempt on the following grounds:

The Trust considers that disclosure of the information risks identifying individuals. The reason for this is that the number of staff for which this applies is very low. This and the fact that the data requested relates to the RDUH Health NHS Trust only and therefore relates to staff in a specific location (rather than covering a larger geographical area), increases the risk of identification or self-identification.

The Trust's view is that s.40(2) is applicable because disclosure of information which could lead to an individual being identified would be a breach of their rights under the Data Protection Act Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the GDPR, namely Principle 1.

*2. Is it possible to tell whether knife wounds are related to criminal activity – as opposed to (say) a kitchen injury?*

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information in an easily reportable format. The Trust applies the following Freedom of Information Exemptions:

Section 12:

To provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources and systems including individual patient records. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting that information.

Section 40 (2):

In addition, it is not expected and inappropriate for the Trust to review individual patient records to obtain/produce the information. In this instance is exempt under Section 40(2) of the FOI Function as it is in breach of Principle 1 of the UK GDPR.