

Sent via email

Email: kmpt.inforaccess@nhs.net
Website: www.kmpt.nhs.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 41901 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding: -

Physical Assaults on Staff

Your request is set out below:

1. Please can you provide the number of physical assaults against hospital staff by patients and members of the public on the Trusts premises for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?

All Reported Physical Assaults to Staff by Incident Date	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Physical contact (actual assault) towards staff by a patient	886	897	669	797	638
Physical contact (actual assault) towards staff by patient with protected characteristics content / hate speech					Fewer than 5
Physical contact (actual assault) towards staff by patient with racial intent					22
Physical contact (actual assault) towards staff by a visitor/other	0	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5

2. How many of these physical assaults were reported to the police for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?

All Reported Physical Assaults to Staff reported to Police by Incident Date	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Physical contact (actual assault) towards staff by a patient	80	129	106	94	118
Physical contact (actual assault) towards staff by patient with protected characteristics content / hate speech					0
Physical contact (actual assault) towards staff by patient with racial intent					6
Physical contact (actual assault) towards staff by a visitor/other	0	0	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5	0

3. If you hold this data, how many had a criminal justice outcome (e.g. cautioned, charged, taken to court) for the following five years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?

The requested information is not held centrally and is contained within the individual clinical records and archive systems which cannot be extracted as a standalone piece of data. In order to extract the requested information and collate the results would require a manual exercise to identify and review clinical records and would exceed the appropriate time limits, as per the Freedom of Information Act 2000 section 12(1) which does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

4. Since 2019 has the Trust introduced any additional measures to try to reduce the number of physical assaults against hospital staff? If so, please specify what measures have been taken e.g. body cameras, CCTV in clinical areas, more security guards etc?

Staff in mental health settings encounter more violence and aggression compared to those in acute trusts. KMPT is committed to significantly reducing violence and aggression and our new CEO has made this a priority area of focus and we are taking a new approach to address this. We are discussing this issue with staff to understand what they are experiencing and help identify the root causes. This has already informed new ways of supporting them, for example testing new safety bundles on wards, with more initiatives to follow. We are also strengthening our partnerships with agencies like the police, to put in place better responses when we require their assistance. Acute staff have personal alarms available to them to activate if they feel at risk so colleagues to swiftly come to their aid. We are in the process of introducing CCTV and body worn cameras. The Trust also provides all lone working staff with GPS lone working devices.

I confirm that the information above completes your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am also pleased to confirm that no charge will be made for this request.

If you have any questions or concerns or are unhappy with the response provided or the service you have received you can write to the Head of Information Governance at the address on top of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of
The Information Governance Department