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Dear ,

The Trust is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, thank you. This request has been assigned the internal reference quoted above; please ensure that you quote this number in any future correspondence.

We have now provided a formal response below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding the completion of this request. At the time of writing the Trust continues to receive high volumes of FOI requests, many of which are complex and time consuming. In this instance, the Trust has not responded within the required 20 working days, and for this we apologise.

### **FOI Request**

You asked us:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with the following information about incidents of sexual harm and physical violence that have taken place at your trust. Incidents of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual assault and rape. (See after the question for clarification on these definitions.)**

**In order to assist you, I understand that some, if not all of this information should be recorded in the trust's safety incident reporting system, or it may be recorded by your HR team.**

**If possible, please use one of the attached spreadsheets to provide your answers. Please also explain any gaps in your data.**

***Please ensure that the data you provide is for financial years, not calendar years.***

**Total sexual safety incidents:**



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**1. How many sexual safety incidents did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25? (This includes incidents by all alleged perpetrators against all alleged victims: staff, patients, visitors, members of the public)**

**1.1 How many of these incidents took place on the trust premises?**

**1.2 How many sexual safety incidents on the trust premises did the trust record in the financial year 2023-24?\***

**1.3 How many sexual safety incidents on the trust premises did the trust record in the financial year 2022-23?\***

**(\*My previous FOI asked for total incidents for 2022-23 and 2023-24 but did not specifically ask for only those incidents that occurred on the trust premises. If your previous response only covered incidents on the trust premises please answer 'no change'.)**

**Sexual safety incidents by staff against patients:**

**2. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by staff against patients did the trust record in the 2024/25 financial year?**

**Sexual violence and misconduct by patients against other patients:**

**3. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by patients against other patients did the trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?**

**Sexual safety incidents by patients against staff:**

**4. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by patients against staff did the trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?**

**Sexual safety incidents by staff against other staff:**

**5. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by staff against other staff did the trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?**

**Age of alleged victims:**

**Please provide figures for the 2024-25 financial year:**

**6. How many of the sexual safety incidents did the trust record where the victim was a patient:**

**6.1 Under 18 (this includes under 16 and under 13)**

**6.2 Under 16 (this includes under 13)**

**6.3 Under 13**

**Only include incidents that occurred on the trust's premises.**

**Physical violence:**



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**7. How many incidents of physical violence perpetrated by patients against staff did the trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?**

**7.1 Do the trust's records of physical violence by patients distinguish between intentional/deliberate and un/non-intentional violence? (Unintentional violence might be due to lack of capacity, e.g. a symptom of dementia.)**

**7.2 If the trust does breakdown physical violence into intentional/deliberate and un/non-intentional violence, please provide the following data for the 2024-25 financial year:**

- **Number of intentional/deliberate incidents of physical violence by patients against staff.**
- **Number of un/non-intentional violence incidents of physical violence by patients against staff.**

**Terminology:**

**Sexual safety incidents include any behaviour of a sexual nature that is unwanted, or makes another person feel uncomfortable or afraid. This covers:**

- **sexual assault: when a person is coerced or physically forced to engage in sexual activity against their will, or when a person (of any gender) touches another person sexually without their consent.**
- **sexual harassment: any behaviour that is characterised by inappropriate sexual remarks, gestures or physical advances which are unwanted and make a person feel uncomfortable, intimidated or degrade their dignity.**
- **Other sexual incidents: where an individual may have witnessed or experienced something of a sexual nature that does not fit in to the categories of sexual harassment or assault, and which made the person feel uncomfortable and/or sexually unsafe.**

\* \* \*

**N.B. If you require any clarification, please contact me under your Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance.**

**For your convenience, I have provided a spreadsheet below in which to provide your answers. Please note the Court of Appeal decision in Innes vs Information Commissioner and Buckinghamshire County Council (2014) GIA/3436/2011 regarding the format of the response, i.e. you should provide the response in the format requested.**

**If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions in the Data Protection Act, please inform me of that fact and cite the exemptions used.**

### **Formal Response**

The Trust confirms it holds part of the information you requested.



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**Total sexual safety incidents:**

**1. How many sexual safety incidents did the trust record in the financial year 2024-25? (This includes incidents by all alleged perpetrators against all alleged victims: staff, patients, visitors, members of the public)**

43

**1.1 How many of these incidents took place on the trust premises?**

Less than 10.

**1.2 How many sexual safety incidents on the trust premises did the trust record in the financial year 2023-24?\***

Less than 10.

**1.3 How many sexual safety incidents on the trust premises did the trust record in the financial year 2022-23?\***

Less than 10.

**Sexual safety incidents by staff against patients:**

**2. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by staff against patients did the trust record in the 2024/25 financial year?**

0

**Sexual violence and misconduct by patients against other patients:**

0

**3. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by patients against other patients did the trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?**

We do not record this information on DCIQ.

**Sexual safety incidents by patients against staff:**

42

**4. How many sexual safety incidents allegedly perpetrated by patients against staff did the trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?**

42

## **Sexual safety incidents by staff against other staff:**

1

### **Age of alleged victims:**

**Please provide figures for the 2024-25 financial year:**

**6. How many of the sexual safety incidents did the trust record where the victim was a patient:**

We do not record age on the system.

**6.1 Under 18 (this includes under 16 and under 13)**

**6.2 Under 16 (this includes under 13)**

**6.3 Under 13**

**Only include incidents that occurred on the trust's premises.**

### **Physical violence:**

**7. How many incidents of physical violence perpetrated by patients against staff did the trust record in the 2024-25 financial year?**

283 actual assaults and 108 attempted assaults. Figures for sexual verbal aggression have not been included.

**7.1 Do the trust's records of physical violence by patients distinguish between intentional/deliberate and un/non-intentional violence? (Unintentional violence might be due to lack of capacity, e.g. a symptom of dementia.)**

No, we do not differentiate this.

**7.2 If the trust does breakdown physical violence into intentional/deliberate and un/non-intentional violence, please provide the following data for the 2024-25 financial year:**

No, we do not differentiate this.

- **Number of intentional/deliberate incidents of physical violence by patients against staff.**
- **Number of un/non-intentional violence incidents of physical violence by patients against staff.**

The Trust can confirm that this information exists. However, where an output represents fewer than 10 individuals or incidents in the period requested, we have not provided exact figures. This practice is known as data blurring, which serves to mitigate against the risk of possible re-identification of individual data subjects via data recombination (sometimes referred to as jigsawing). This risk



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is assessed in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) *Anonymisation Code of Practice*, in relation to Section 40(2) of the FOIA 2000

### **Next steps**

We hope you find the information provided to be of some assistance.

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance, via the following email address: [FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

You can ask us to review our original response. If you would like us to carry out an internal review, please let us know within 40 working days of you receiving our original response. This review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer. We will endeavour to complete this request within 20 working days.

Should you remain dissatisfied then you can contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) (ICO). Complaints to the ICO should be made within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints).

Alternatively, the ICO's postal address is:  
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information Coordinator**  
**South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**



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