



40-42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW

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30th April 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/03/30.

You requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information:

1. How many staff members from your Trust have been verbally or physically assaulted or faced sexual aggression in:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014

Please break down by nature of the incident, by gender (if this is recorded) and in calendar years.

Our Trust views assaults against its staff very seriously. Our Local Security Management Specialist actively promotes awareness of our zero-tolerance stance with regard to assaults on staff and encourages staff to report incidents.

The Trust also ensures that our operational staff are provided with conflict resolution training to minimise the risks of assaults.

Please see the attached spreadsheet which shows the figures for physical, verbal and sexual assault for the calendar years of 2012, 2013 and 2014. This spreadsheet also shows the grade of harm for each of the incidents. We are unable to provide the gender of each staff member as we do not hold this information in a reportable format. I regret to advise that we cannot provide any further information as requested on the grounds of the exemption contained within s.12 of the FOIA. To retrieve the information would necessitate manually searching through each incident, of which there are a total of 537. This would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours as set down in the guidance

on the application of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees).

2. How many staff members were forced to take time off as a result of an incident?

The following information is based on incidents reported to RIDDOR (reporting of injuries, disease and dangerous occurrences regulations) as the staff member was off work for more than 7 days following the incident.

In 2012 three staff members were off work as a direct result of an incident (all physical assaults that needed treatment).

In 2013 five staff members were off work as a direct result of an incident (all physical assaults that needed treatment).

In 2014 six staff members were off work as a direct result of an incident (5 were physical assaults that needed treatment & 1 was verbal assault/abuse).

3. Providing you hold the information and it does not exceed cost limit, please include how many staff members sustained injuries, and any detail you hold regarding the severity of these injuries.

Please see the response to question 1.

I hope you find this information helpful.

If, for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response, you are entitled to pursue any dissatisfaction through South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust's (SECAMB) Internal Review Procedure at:

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
40-42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW
Email: complaints@secamb.nhs.uk

Should you remain unhappy with the outcome of any such internal review, you may request a decision from the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire

SK9 5AF

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

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