



South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS
Foundation Trust
Nexus House
Gatwick Road
Crawley
RH10 9BG

Date 11th December 2018

Email:

Email:foi@secamb.nhs.uk

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/18/11/21.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

The number of reported assaults on ambulance staff/paramedics from SECamb since January 2016, with a breakdown of when each incident took place, how many ambulance staff/paramedics were abused and whether any police action was taken over it.

Please see tables below. Please note we record our data in *financial* year.

Financial Year	Victims of Physical Assault	Number of incidents of aggression*
2016-17	234	445
2017-18	220	433

Please be advised that physical assaults also include incidents of spitting

Please note we only record the number of victims for physical assaults. We record the number of incidents reported for other types of aggression.

In order to identify the number of victims of aggression incidents or a breakdown of where each incident occurred it would require a manual search of each record and would exceed 18 hours and is therefore exempt under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004

Financial Year	Sanctions for Offenders of Physical Assault		
	Criminal/Court	Civil/Local	Total
2016-17	24	80	104
2017-18	31	92	123

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.

Would it also be possible to find out how many incidents left staff needing time off work and if so how much time off work was taken by each incident.

As illustrated above we have provided analytical data relating to your request. However, an FOI does not constitute the release of personal data and by providing information requested relating to individual incidents this is potentially identifiable and therefore exempt under Section 40 (2) Data Protection.

The confidentiality of both our staff and patients is paramount within the Trust as is our requirement to adhere to data protection regulations.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Information Governance Lead via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

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