



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/18/12/06.

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

1. The number of injuries sustained by staff due to patients, in each of the last 5 years.

Unfortunately, in order to extract this information, it would require a manual search of all records which would exceed 18hours and is therefore exempt under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004. Please see table below showing victims of physical assaults and total incidents of aggression.

2. The number of facial injuries sustained by staff due to patients, in each of the last 5 years.

Unfortunately, in order to extract this information, it would require a manual search of all records which would exceed 18hours and is therefore exempt under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004

3. The number of eye injuries sustained by staff due to patients, in each of the last 5 years.

Unfortunately, in order to extract this information, it would require a manual search of all records which would exceed 18hours and is therefore exempt under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004

4. The number of spitting incidents by patients towards staff, in each of the last 5 years.

Please see table below:

Financial Year	Victims of Physical Assault	Number of incidents of aggression
2013-14	113	246
2014-15	123	315
2015-16	207	363
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

5. The total number of days off work taken out by staff due to injuries from patients, in each of the last 5 years.

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