Information Governance
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7 November 2017
Reference no. 17180231

Dear

Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email of 18 October, making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

Request:

1. How many reported incidents of physical assaults against lone workers (ie; district nurses; community nurses; mental health nurses; health visitors etc) have been recorded at your organisation in each of the last three years? If you are able to make clear how many of the assaults had medical factors involved, that would be helpful.*

For an example of how you may wish to lay out this information, please see the following table:

2017   2016   2015

Number of physical assaults

2. If possible, please categorise the types of assaults these included (For eg; punching; kicking; assault with a weapon; sexual assault etc)

3. Has your organisation been made aware of any reports of stalking or harassment against any lone workers in this time period (2015-17)?

4. How many of the physical assaults have resulted in legal prosecutions against the perpetrator?

5. Please attach a copy of your lone worker policy and explain whether lone workers receive a lone worker device, personal alarm or other safety device?

Response:

Combined answer for questions 1 and 2.

Categories are given as recorded on our incident reporting system. The second table relates to their query on medical factors.

Please note that this includes all incidents of assault that were *not* recorded as occurring on an inpatient ward. Data may, therefore, include assaults that were not on lone workers as it would depend on where the incident took place.

Category of Violence/Aggression	Financial Year 14/15	Financial Year 15/16	Financial Year 16/17
VA008 Violence No Injury - Public On Staff	4	6	2
VA009 Violence No Injury - Patient On Staff	27	27	17
VA016 Violence With Injury - Patient On Staff	12	13	12
VA019 Violence With Injury - Public On Staff		2	
VA030 Patient Bites Staff		3	1
Total	**43**	**51**	**32**

	Financial Year 14/15	Financial Year 15/16	Financial Year 16/17
*Number of incidents in which patient involved seeing a Mental Health team (regarding the query on medical factors)	29 of 43	32 of 51	22 of 32

3. Yes

4. Information for previous years is published and available in the public domain: https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/crime-prevention/nhs-protect-statistics

5. Copy attached.

Lone workers are not routinely issued with lone worker devices, although they are available through local managers/procurement following a local risk assessment. Other forms of alarm or safety devices may also be issued locally dependent on perceived risk but there is no Trust-wide requirement to issue to all lone workers.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for FoI Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance