



Whittington Health NHS Trust

FoI request re: Abuse against ED staff and number of staff in general surgical department Ref: 22-ND-0107

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information relating to the number of abuses against ED staff and the number of current clinicians in general surgical department.

Please find our responses below:

Request 1:

Number of abuse incidents against staff working in the Emergency Department from January 2017- March 2022 broken down by month:

There were 173 incidents for physical abuse for the period requested. Please note that we do not have a search option for ED staff, therefore the figure of 173 refers to incidents against staff that took place in ED.

Request 2:

Number of assaults resulting in injury

We are not able to provide you with the number of staff injured further to the assault as would require to manually go through the description of 173 incidents. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all incidents records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

Request 3:

Number of assaults resulting in non-injury

[See response 2](#)

Request 4:

Number of verbal abuse

Jan -17	Fe b- 17	Ma r- 17	Ap r- 17	Ma y- 17	Ju n- 17	Jul - 17	Au g- 17	Se p- 17	Oct -17	No v- 17	De c- 17	Jan -18	Fe b- 18	Ma r- 18	Ap r- 18	Ma y- 18	Ju n- 18	Jul - 18	Au g- 18	Se p- 18	Oct -18	No v- 18	De c- 18
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Chief Executive: John Harrington





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Physical Abuse, Assault or Violence	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	≤5
Verbal Abuse	0	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	6
Sexual Harassment/A buse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	≤5
Racial Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0	≤5
Other Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	≤5

	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20		
Physical Abuse, Assault or Violence	10	11	≤5	12	≤5	≤5	13	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	
Verbal Abuse	≤5	11	≤5	≤5	7	≤5	7	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	10
Sexual Harassment/Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Racial Abuse	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Abuse	0	0	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0

	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Physical Abuse, Assault or Violence	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	6	7	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	6	≤5	≤5
Verbal Abuse	6	≤5	7	≤5	≤5	7	8	8	≤5	≤5	6	6	7	10

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Sexual Harassment/Abuse	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0
Racial Abuse	0	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	≤5
Other Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	0

Please note that the trust's policy is not to provide patient or staff numbers, where the response is less than or equal to five (≤ 5) as it would potentially allow identification of the individual patient/staff and would therefore be personal data. The trust considers that release of that information would breach GDPR/DPA18 principles on the grounds that it would not be fair in all the circumstances. This information is therefore exempt under section 40 of the FOI Act 2000.

Request 5:

Number of sexual harassment/abuse

[See above Request 4](#)

Request 6:

Other abuse not characterised as above

[See above Request 4](#)

Request 7:

Number of current clinicians in the General Surgical department:

General Surgical Consultants employed by the trust	11
General Surgical Consultant vacancies	0
Post CCT fellows	0
Post CCT fellow vacancies	0
Training post speciality registrars (ST3-ST8)	5
Non training post registrars (ST3 – ST8 level equivalence)	3

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Registrar level (ST3-ST8) vacancies	5
Core Surgical trainees	0
SHOs in a national training post excluding core surgical trainees (e.g. GPST, Foundation Year 2 doctors)	3
SHOs not in a training post	0
SHO level vacancies	0
Foundation Year 1 doctors in a national training programme	7
Foundation Year 1 equivalent doctors not in a national training programme	0
Foundation year 1 level vacancies	0
Any additional qualified doctors not listed as above employed by the general surgical department and their job title	0

I hope you find this information useful. Please quote the above reference in any further communication on this matter.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or at the address shown below.

Yours sincerely

FOI Coordinator
Freedom of Information Office
[Whittington Health](#)
[Highgate Wing, Level 5](#)
[Magdala Avenue](#)
London, N19 5NF
foi.whitthealth@nhs.net

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If you are dissatisfied with this response, Whittington Health operates a complaints procedure, details of which can be found below:

FOI Complaints:

In the first instance, write to:

Director Lead for Information Governance

Chief Operating Officer
Jenner Building
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF
020 7288 5255
foi.whitthealth@nhs.net

If you remain dissatisfied with the Trust's response, you may write to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745
www.ico.org.uk

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