

Ref. No: 608250322
From: Public
Date: 25/03/22
Subject: Abuse and harassment of NHS nurses

REQUEST

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning abuse and harassment of NHS nurses in the North West, as outlined below.

1. How many reports of physical abuse experienced by nurses from patients or service users were made to your trust in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, up to and including February 2022?
2. How many reports of harassment, including sexual harassment, experienced by nurses from patients or service users were made to your trust in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, up to and including February 2022?
3. How many reports of sexual assault experienced by nurses from patients or service users were made to your trust in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, up to and including February 2022?
4. Of the reported harassment and abuse towards nurses by patients in your NHS trust, how many reports were passed on to police for further investigation in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, up to and including February 2022?
5. How many nurses that reported harassment and abuse in the workplace in your NHS trust were offered support such as counselling, time off work or other forms of support in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, up to and including February 2022?

RESPONSE

Questions 1 – 3:

Under the category of “Abusive, violent disruptive or self-harming behaviour / abuse etc of staff by patients” on Datix we have sub categories of:

- Physical abuse, assault or violence OR Assault with weapon
- Sexual
- Racial
- Verbal abuse or disruption

The tables below show numbers of Datix for each category (nurses only)

| Physical abuse, assault or violence OR Assault with weapon | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Total |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Total | 54 | 99 | 85 | 163 | 33 | 434 |

| Sexual | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Total |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Total | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 | 12 |

| Verbal abuse or disruption | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Total |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Total | 108 | 106 | 123 | 202 | 57 | 596 |

| Racial | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Total |
|--------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Total | <5 | <5 | 6 | 6 | 19 |

| Disruptive, aggressive behaviour - other | Total |
|------------------------------------------|-------|
| Total | 0 |

Please note <5 has been added where the number of staff is 5 or less, this information has been redacted to protect staff confidentiality and to ensure that staff can not be identified.

In regard to question 4 and 5:

There have been 1061 Datix reported in these categories over this timeframe.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in answering the remainder of your questions. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.