

Request for Information Reference: 03.19.30

Direct line: 01325 743700

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Email only

15 April 2019

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information received on 18 March 2019 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding assaults on NHS staff. Specifically you requested information as follows:

**1. If your Trust runs one or more A&E departments, could you please provide the total number of physical assaults on staff for each of the following time periods: 2018-2019 (or up until the most recent month), 2017-2018, 2016-2017, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015. Please release any readily available data-sets for these time periods?**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Emergency Department DMH</b>	<b>Emergency Department UHND</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	1	6
<b>2015-16</b>	4	15
<b>2016-17</b>	10	9
<b>2017-18</b>	8	10
<b>2018-19</b>	10	11

**2. If your Trust runs one or more A&E departments, could you please provide the total number of non-physical assaults on staff for each of the following time periods: 2018-2019 (or up until the most recent month), 2017-2018, 2016-2017, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015? Please release any readily available data-sets?**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Emergency Department DMH</b>	<b>Emergency Department UHND</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	8	26
<b>2015-16</b>	6	23
<b>2016-17</b>	12	32
<b>2017-18</b>	24	20
<b>2018-19</b>	36	17

3. If available, please provide a breakdown of the data for your whole trust, for the total number of physical assaults on staff by their profession (see below) for the following time periods: 2018-2019 (or until the most recent month available), 2017-2018, 2016-2017, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015? Please release any readily available data-sets?

<b>Job Type</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
<b>Blanks – Victim did not record job type</b>	14	15	6	4	3
<b>Add Prof Scientific And Technic</b>	3	3	0	2	2
<b>Additional Clinical Services</b>	13	31	22	23	36
<b>Administrative And Clerical</b>	7	13	8	5	4
<b>Allied Health Professionals</b>	0	1	2	2	4
<b>Estates And Ancillary</b>	67	75	79	60	93
<b>Healthcare Scientists</b>	0	2	0	0	0
<b>In-House Bank/NHS Professional</b>	2	10	5	4	9
<b>Medical And Dental</b>	1	4	5	2	8
<b>Nursing And Midwifery Registered</b>	83	119	113	101	125
<b>Students</b>	3	2	2	3	10
<b>Unknown</b>	12	41	17	0	4

4. If recorded, please provide a breakdown of the data for your whole trust, the total number of physical assaults on staff across the trust by aggravating factors (see below) for the following time periods: 2018-2019 (or until the most recent month available), 2017-2018, 2016-2017, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015? Please release any readily available data-sets?

<b>Contributory Factors</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
<b>Blanks – Victim did not list cause</b>	50	61	94	87	96	114
<b>Alcohol</b>	8	4	14	15	7	13
<b>Cognitive Impairment</b>	33	31	70	58	44	64
<b>Comm. Factors (Incl. Verb., Writ. &amp; Non Verbal)</b>	0	0	2	1	0	0
<b>Confusion</b>	38	41	40	33	44	57
<b>Drugs</b>	1	1	2	5	9	3
<b>Equip. &amp; Resources Factors(E.G. Size)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Individual Factors</b>	5	4	9	5	4	11
<b>Medication</b>	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Medication Factors (Drug/s Contrib To Inc.)</b>	0	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Organisation &amp; Strategic Factors(E.G. Culture)</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0

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<b>Patient Factors (E.G. Clin. Cond, Social, Phys)</b>	22	17	20	18	18	22
<b>Staffing Level</b>	0	1	1	3	3	0
<b>Team &amp; Social Factors (Incl. Leadership)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Undergone Recent Surgery</b>	0	1	1	2	3	1
<b>Underlying Medical Conditions</b>	17	3	6	8	8	5
<b>Unknown</b>	14	10	13	0	0	0
<b>Work &amp; Environ. Factors (E.G. Work Load)</b>	0	0	1	3	0	1

**5. Could you please provide the amount of money spent on private security guards for each of the following years 2018-2019 (or until the most recent month available), 2017-2018, 2016 - 2017, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015. Please release any readily available data-sets?**

Answer:

<b>Darlington Memorial Hospital</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>2014 - 15</b>	£198,092
<b>2015 - 16</b>	£226,895
<b>2016 - 17</b>	£248,780
<b>2017 - 18</b>	£239,676
<b>2018 - 19</b>	£222,711

The security function provided at University Hospital of North Durham is provided under the umbrella of a Private Finance Initiative covering that site. There are no directly employed security personnel at Chester le Street Hospital and Bishop Auckland Hospital which are managed as private finance initiatives.

It is not the policy of the respective PFI Companies to release to third parties details of PFI agreements. They consider that publication of the information would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests. The Trust is therefore applying the exemption under Section 43 (2) Prejudice to Commercial interests within the FOIA 2000.

We are unable to provide the information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

Section 43 (2) exempts from disclosure the following:

(2) Information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information.

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**6. Could you also provide the amount of money total money spent on security measures (including but not exclusive to body cameras, CCTV, re-designing clinical environments, security staff, campaigns) for each of the following years: 2017-2018, (or until the most recent month available), 2017-2018, 2016-2017, 2015-2016 and 2014-2015?**

Answer:

<b>Darlington Memorial Hospital</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>2014 - 15</b>	£198,092
<b>2015 - 16</b>	£226,895
<b>2016 - 17</b>	£250,252
<b>2017 - 18</b>	£246,459
<b>2018 - 19</b>	£239,830

The security function provided at University Hospital of North Durham is provided under the umbrella of a Private Finance Initiative covering that site. There are no directly employed security personnel at Chester le Street Hospital and Bishop Auckland Hospital which are managed as private finance initiatives.

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**Definitions and criteria for questions 1-4**

**Physical assault is the intentional application of force against the person without lawful justification resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort. For the purposes of this FOI spitting is included in this definition.**

**Non-physical assault is the use of inappropriate words or behaviour causing distress and/or constituting harassment. Non-physical assault includes the following (but is not exclusive to) offensive or obscene language; verbal abuse and swearing; brandishing weapons, or objects which could be used as weapons; attempted assaults; offensive gestures; threats; intimidation;**

**harassment or stalking; damage to buildings equipment or vehicles which causes fear for personal safety; offensive language or behaviour related to a**

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***person's, race, gender, nationality, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation; inappropriate sexual language or behaviour.***

***Professions include (but are not exclusive to) the following: nurses (including student nurses), doctors (including student doctors), security staff, healthcare assistants, paramedics, midwives, health visitors and porters.***

***Aggravating factors can include (but is not is not exclusive to) the following: racial, sexual, sexual harassment, homophobia, ableism, ageism, hate crime, and mental illness or condition.***

***Please include any information already previously released or if this information is in the public domain in your responses, or provide page references and URLs to this information.***

**County Durham and Darlington Services (CDD services) is a wholly owned subsidiary of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, they provide Estates, Facilities and Procurement services and reply as above:**

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive  
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

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There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**

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