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Request for Information Reference: 01.21.09

Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)  
Email only

2 February 2021

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to physical assaults and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**How many physical assaults against NHS staff by patients have been recorded since January 2018? I would like this information broken down by month, and then by department.**

Please note in relation to the data provided that the definition used to formulate this response is as follows:

*Physical assault - "The intentional application of force to another without lawful justification resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort". NHS Protect*

The Trust uses an incident reporting system whereby all incidents of a physical nature are recorded as 'physical assaults' no matter the clinical condition of the instigator. The majority of these assaults are conducted by patients who do not know that what they had done was wrong, due to a medical illness and/or confused state of mind and therefore lack capacity in some form. This is often through living with dementia, having delirium, living with a severe learning disability or suffering from mental health issues or other general incapacity issues. The results contained within this response include those incidents whereby the individual lacked capacity.

Please see the attached for the following data:

Attachment 1 – 2018  
Attachment 2 – 2019  
Attachment 3 – 2020

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 on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs).

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

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