

## Freedom of Information request 379-17

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### Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2005 on statistics you hold on assaults to health workers that have occurred in the course of their employment over the last year. This will enable us to assess whether there has been any change in the number of assaults reported and whether the method of collation of such statistics has improved.

We would require information primarily on the number of assaults - see question 1 - but information about the nature of the assault and a breakdown of the category of worker and area, e.g. A & E/ Acute/ Primary Care/Community would also be helpful.

I look forward to receiving the information you hold.

I would, therefore, request the following information:

1. What is the total number of assaults on your employees during the past year? (I am not so much concerned by whether the period is the last calendar year, financial year or other dates, as long as it is the last 12 month period for which you hold figures.)
2. Please provide where possible a breakdown of the nature of the assault, e.g. verbal, physical, threatening behaviour.

Please provide where possible a breakdown of the category of worker involved, e.g. clinical staff (nurses, doctors etc), admin, cleaning, catering, portering etc and area, e.g. A&E/Acute/Primary Care/Community

### Response

1. The total number of assaults between 1 August 2016 and 31 July 2017 was 937.
2. Please find below a breakdown of the nature of the assaults:

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>1st Aug 2016 - 31st Jul 2017</b>
Allied Health Professionals	12
Community Hospitals	68
Learning Disabilities	6
Mental Health	333
Primary, Acute & Community Services	348
Support Services	170
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>937</b>
<b>Type of Assault</b>	<b>1st Aug 2016 - 31st Jul 2017</b>
Alcohol related aggression and violence	47
Personal safety vulnerable	54
Physical aggression by other	<5
Physical aggression by patient	500
Use of weapon	<5
Verbal aggression by other	67
Verbal aggression by patient	263
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>937</b>

<b>Staff Type</b>	<b>1st Aug 2016 - 31st Jul 2017</b>
Admin/Clerical/Reception Staff/PA	15
Associate Specialist	<5
Car Park Attendant	<5
Catering Staff	<5
Consultant	7
Doctor (unknown grade)	<5
Domestic/Porter	<5
Health Visitor	<5
Junior Doctor	<5
Manager	<5
Nurse/Midwife	222
Nursery Nurse	<5
Occupational Therapist	<5
Other	20
Phlebotomist	<5
Physiotherapist	5
Radiographer	<5
Security Staff	36
Senior Charge Nurse/Charge Nurse	5
Speech & Language Therapist	<5
Staff Grade	<5
Supervisor	<5
Unqualified Nurse/Midwife	63
Not Specified	538
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>937</b>

As the number of events in some areas are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or [foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk).

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **379-17** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.