

Freedom of Information request 141-19

Request

- 1) The total number of physical assaults on staff for the following time periods:
 - 2017-2018
 - 2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available

By physical assaults on staff I refer to the intentional application of force against the person without lawful justification resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort. Spitting is included in this definition of a physical assault. (This definition was given in NHS Protect England's 2016 Guidance.)

2) If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods.

2. The total number of non-physical assaults on staff for the following time periods:
 - 2017-2018
 - 2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available

By non-physical assaults on staff I refer to the use of inappropriate words or behaviour causing distress and/or constituting harassment. Non-physical assault includes: 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 person's, race, gender, nationality, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation; inappropriate sexual language or behaviour. (This definition was given in NHS Protect England's 2016 Guidance.)

If available, please also release the relevant data sets for these time periods.

Response

The table below details both physical and non-physical assaults on staff in the requested years:

	2017/18	2018/19 (up to 18/03/19)
Physical Assaults	491	532
Non-Physical Assaults	451	602

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.

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 **141-19** 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.