



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

## Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

**FOI Reference:**

**FOI 201**

**Date request received**

**15 March 2019**

**Date information is due to be sent**

**12 April 2019**

### Information requested:

I am writing to make an open government request to all the information from your trust to which I am entitled to under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – regarding physical and non-physical assaults against NHS Staff.

This is a follow-up to the data previously released to and published by Unison and the Health Service Journal for the year 2016-2017, so please release the data I am requesting with the same parameters used in this previous data for the year 2017-2018.

The questions below are in order of importance, if answering these questions is likely to exceed the cost and time limit for responding to an FOI please answer them in order until these limits have been met. I would like to request the following:

**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 definition used in the NHS Protect 2016 Guidance: “the intentional application of force against the person without lawful justification resulting in physical injury or personal discomfort. Spitting is included in the definition of a physical assault.”

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

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 definition used in the NHS Protect 2016 Guidance: “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."

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

If possible, could you please release answers to each question as soon as possible (rather than in one overall response). If FOI requests of a similar nature have already been asked could you please include your responses to those requests. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

## **Information provided for the answer:**

Thank you for your email dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The following incidents have been recorded for violence or aggression towards our staff:

During 2017/18 there were a total of 9 incidents recorded under the heading violence and aggression, out of these they were sub categorised:

Aggressive or threatening behaviour / intimidation	2
Allegations made	1
Breach of the peace	1
Harassment and bullying	1
Inappropriate gestures/comments	2
Physical assault	1
Verbal assault/ abuse	1

During 2018/19 there were a total of 8 incidents recorded under the heading violence and aggression, out of these they were sub categorised:

Aggressive or threatening behaviour / intimidation	4
Physical assault	1
Verbal assault/ abuse	3

We received a similar request around the same time yours was received so I have attached that for your information.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address below.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, you should write to the Corporate Complaints Manager, Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 3, Number 2, Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner for Wales

2nd Floor  
Churchill House  
Churchill Way  
Cardiff  
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400

Email: [wales@ico.org.uk](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)