



Freedom of Information Request

20th November 2024

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please may I request the following details:

1) How many assaults on staff have been reported to the health board in each of the last two full financial years (2022/23, 2023/24) and so far this financial year (2024/25)?

If possible, please break the figures down for each year to show if the attacks were carried out by patients, members of the public or staff.

Please also break the figures down for each year to give an indication of how many assaults were of a sexual nature and how many were not.

If possible, please also break the figures down to show how many of the incidents related to attacks on paramedics, other staff, etc.

2) How many legal cases have been raised against the health board in each of the last two full financial years and so far this financial year by public staff who allege the health board was at fault in some regard for the assault they were subjected to?

3) How much compensation has the health board paid out (either directly or through its insurance) in each of the last two full financial years and so far this financial year to workers in relation to instances when they were assaulted in the course of their work?

Answer

Please see below a table detailing the number of assaults on staff for the three years requested, the figures for 2024 are true as of 14/11/2024. These figures have been broken down into assault categories.

The way this information is gathered and held does not provide us a way to report on job titles or to distinguish whether the assault was carried out by patients or staff; it is for this reason we have applied section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002 as information not held.

	2022	2023	2024	Total
Aggravated Assault (by intent to Kill - with Firearm/Knife)	6	6	6	18
Clinical Assault e.g. Struck by fitting patient	23	13	10	46
Common Law Intent (Spit, Punch, Kick)	119	130	84	333
Indirect Assault (Hit by closing door with intent to harm)	<5	13	7	24
Menace (Threatening staff with knife, bottle - within 6 feet)	9	23	6	38
Provocation (Insulting words or provocation)	0	5	6	11
Sexual Assault	9	9	6	24
Threats and Extortion (Threatening to kill or torch a property)	<5	<5	<5	<5



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



For the given data, you will see that some of the figures are shown as, five or less than five, please note that this figure has been suppressed because the statistical value is less than five. The Scottish Ambulance service has a duty, under the Data Protection Act to avoid directly or indirectly revealing any personal details. It is therefore widely understood that provision of statistics on small numbers, five or less are statistically suppressed upon disclosure.

Please note caution when interpreting this data

The information given is assaults on ALL Scottish Ambulance Service staff, we do not hold the information in a way that would allow us to identify the occupation of staff without applying complex skill and judgement of multiple teams.

The Service has a range of measures in place to help protect staff, known or reported areas where staff have previously faced violence or threatening behaviour are taken into consideration and communicated to attending crews. Scottish Ambulance staff are trained in managing aggression and assessing risk, enabling them to better judge when they need to wait for support from the Police, or request additional service support.

2) How many legal cases have been raised against the health board in each of the last two full financial years and so far this financial year by public staff who allege the health board was at fault in some regard for the assault they were subjected to? -

There have been <5 cases raised.

3) How much compensation has the health board paid out (either directly or through its insurance) in each of the last two full financial years and so far this financial year to workers in relation to instances when they were assaulted in the course of their work? - £10,000