



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

University National NHS Board



# Freedom of Information Request

**29<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

## Question

I am interested in finding out information about assaults on your staff. (I am aware you recently answered one FOI request about this but the information was too general for my purposes).

1. How many assaults have there been on your staff in 2024 to date?
2. Please provide a breakdown by area, for example, Grampian.
3. How many of these incidents were of a sexual nature?
4. How many officers were injured as a result of these assaults?
5. Can you give some examples of injuries suffered, and the treatment needed?
6. How many of the victims received counselling as a result?
7. How many of the victims had to take time off work as a result?
8. Is there any other information that might contextualise the information above?

## Answer

There have been 185 assaults so far in 2024 as of 25/11/2024. The attached sheet breaks this information down into health boards and assault categories.

We do not hold the information in a way that allows us to report on which of these incidents resulted in staff being injured, requiring treatment, counselling or sick leave. It is for this reason I have applied Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002; Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) does not hold the information that you have requested.

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 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