



Freedom of Information Request

6th June 2024

Question

1. The number of paramedics who were assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.
2. The number of paramedics who suffered serious injuries after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.
3. The number of paramedics who suffered minor injuries after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.
4. The number of paramedics who required sick leave after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.

Answer

Please see the table below detailing the assaults on Scottish Ambulance Service Staff for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Assault Physical	1	2	3	4	10
Aggravated Assault (by intent to Kill - with Firearm/Knife)	<5	5	6	<5	18
Clinical Assault e.g. Struck by fitting patient	22	22	12	7	63
Common Law Intent (Spit, Punch, Kick)	115	108	127	53	403
Indirect Assault (Hit by closing door with intent to harm)	<5	<5	10	8	26
Menace (Threatening staff with knife, bottle - within 6 feet)	9	6	22	6	43
Provocation (Insulting words or provocation)	<5	<5	<5	<5	7
Sexual Assault	5	9	6	5	25
Threats and Extortion (Threatening to kill or torch a property)	0	0	<5	<5	<5
Total	159	155	188	86	588

We do not hold the information in a way that allows us to report on which of these incidents resulted in staff requiring 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.

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.