

Ref. No: 1170
Date: 29/08/24
Subject: Private security for the protection of staff

REQUEST

I'm requesting information under the FOI act. If this is data held by yourselves, I'd appreciate being provided with it in the 20 day timeframe.

1/ How much money was spent by your trust on private security for the protection of staff in the following years?

2018 -
2019 -
2020 -
2021 -
2022 -
2023 -

Secondly,

2/ How many attacks were recorded on members hospital/ambulance staff by non-hospital staff in the same years?

2018 -
2019 -
2020 -
2021 -
2022 -
2023 -

Finally,

3/ If recorded, what was the nature of these incidents (verbal/physical/racial etc)?

2018 -
2019 -
2020 -
2021 -

2022 -
2023 -

- ***- By private security I'm asking for the money spent on security for the protection of staff outside of the usual hospital ground's security (opening and closing ground facilities etc). If this is provided as part of a wider PFI contract and cannot be extrapolated, please let me know. I appreciate in some cases private security will have been brought in especially for the protection of staff and in other cases will be part of a wider remit.***
- ***Where your trust does not operate a hospital site I am asking for the costs of any security hired for the protection of staff outside of hospital grounds such as outpatient visits.***
- ***I am classing hospital/ambulance staff as those directly employed by the hospital or ambulance trust.***
- ***I am classing non-hospital staff as patients, visitors, members of the public not employed by the hospital.***
- ***When I ask for the amount of attacks I am talking about the total number of physical and verbal assaults made by non-hospital staff (defined above) on hospital staff (defined above). This would include sexual assaults as well.***
- ***Q3 is asking for a breakdown of these physical and verbal attacks by incident type. I am requesting this information where available and accept it will be recorded differently on a trust by trust basis.***
- ***Can I request all the above information be provided by calendar year.***

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (STHK) and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust (S&O) became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1/ How much money was spent by your trust on private security for the protection of staff in the following years?

2018 - £0
2019 - £0
2020 - £0
2021 - £0
2022 - £0
2023 - £0

The Trust operates both a PFI and Non-PFI model. The PFI funding is commercially sensitive, nor can it be broken down into the specifics requested. The non-PFI sites do not provide additional costs for staff protections- additional costs incurred are for patient protection.

Secondly,

2/ How many attacks were recorded on members hospital/ambulance staff by non-hospital staff in the same years?

Year	Legacy STHK	Legacy S&O
2018	258	214
2019	387	264
2020	295	220
2021	456	205
2022	446	296
2023	448	294

3/ If recorded, what was the nature of these incidents (verbal/physical/racial etc)?

Legacy STHK

Year	Assault with a weapon	Physical abuse, assault, or violence	Racial	Sexual	Verbal abuse or disruption	Total
2018	4	119	6	4	125	258
2019	8	223	6	4	146	387
2020	8	122	4	4	157	295
2021	8	234	4	8	202	456
2022	10	235	11	10	180	446
2023	11	239	15	7	176	448

Legacy S&O

Year	Physical abuse/violence	Racial abuse harassment	Sexual abuse harassment	Verbal abuse	Total
2018	66	3	3	142	214
2019	115	6	6	137	264
2020	108	5	3	104	220
2021	90	7	3	105	205
2022	148	12	6	130	296
2023	145	9	1	139	294