

Reference Number: FOIAH2425/543
From: Other
Date: 06 January 2025
Subject: Assault attendances to Emergency Department 2024

We are conducting an annual national study of attendances to Emergency Departments for assault-related injury and will be grateful if your department could provide us with attendance data for 2024.

Data required (for period between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024)

Q1 We require the gender of the patient (M or F), the date that they attended due to assault (dd/mm/yyyy) and their age. Age can either be numerical to the nearest year (preferred) or in age bands ("0-10", "11-17", "18-30", "31-50", "51+")

A1

Assaults per gender	
Male	92
Female	34

Number of assaults per month	
January	7
February	8
March	14
April	14
May	9
June	18
July	7
August	7
September	11
October	6
November	17
December	25

Assaults by age	
0-10	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
11-17	120
18-30	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.

The Trust is unable to respond to all or specific elements of your request where the response would indicate five or less individuals. The Trust is withholding this information under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 to reduce the risk of any individuals being identified. The Trust is of the view that

disclosure of such information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and as such would constitute a breach of their personal data.

The Trust has applied exemption Section 40(2) of the FOIA and is therefore withholding the information as disclosure which may identify an individual would breach their rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. The grounds for application of this exemption include:

- Any data relating to patients or staff is third party data, furthermore health data is classified as sensitive personal data within the Data Protection Act 2018. As such, Section 40 (2) of the FOIA applies along with the Trusts duty of confidentiality. Therefore under s.2 (3) (f) (ii) of the FOIA, there is an absolute exemption from disclosure on the grounds that it would contravene the First Data Protection Principle.
- The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and specifically the First Data Protection Principle to ensure personal data regarding staff and patients is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of such data which may identify an individual, either through the data alone or other data in conjunction with that data which may identify an individual would therefore breach this principle.
- The Data Protection Act 2018 defines sensitive personal data to include data relating to the “physical or mental health or condition” of a person. Any such information about specific individuals falls within this category and disclosure of such data including statistical data, with any potential likelihood of identification would breach the Data Protection Act 2018.

Q2 To calculate the level of assault-related injury in England and Wales we also require the total number of attendances for any reason in the year of interest, i.e., 2024

A2 71,002

Q3 Please also include the names of hospitals (including Minor Injury Units and Walk-in Centres) providing assault data

A3 Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust