Freedom of Information

Thank you for your 01/10/15 request for the following information:

I would like to request information about physical attacks on premises owned by your trust. By ‘physical attacks’ I mean records of any physical attack by one person on another person reported to or collected by your trust, or reported by your trust to the police or any other law enforcement agency.

1) For each of the last five financial years from April 2010, please provide the total number of physical attacks by patients on
   a) patients
   b) staff
   c) visitors
   on premises owned by your trust and the total amount of compensation paid out by your trust for physical attacks in each case.

Answer: Incidents of physical attacks (violence & aggression and patient abuse) are recorded on our Datix system. However Datix does not currently separate these into the categories requested i.e. patient on patient, patient on staff, etc. This is something we are implementing for future reporting. The table overleaf shows all reported aggression and patient abuse incidents for the last 5 years but does not separate or distinguish between the identified groups.

To gather the information requested would require our staff manually reviewing and further investigating each individual incident. To undertake this would greatly exceed the appropriate time limit set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (section 12 (1)) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The appropriate limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Consequently, the Trust is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to retrieve the above information. I regret to inform you that we shall not process your request to these questions further.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act we have a duty to provide advice and assistance. With our planned changes to the way we record incidents of Violence and Aggression this information will be available for incidents reported from 1 April 2015 onwards.

Please note reported physical assaults on NHS Staff in England are submitted by all Trusts to NHS Protect on an annual basis. These statistics are published on the NHS Business Services Authority web page, www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial year</th>
<th>Violence &amp; Aggression</th>
<th>Patient Abuse</th>
<th>Eastern*</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eastern* refers to incidents at our Eastern Community Hospitals. No Eastern records are available before April 2011.

Note: the figures above are the number of reported incidents NOT the number of people affected.

In the last five years we have not received any claims for compensation surrounding damages connected to physical attacks on patients, staff or visitors.

2) For each of the last five financial years from April 2010, please provide the number of attacks by staff on
   a) patients
   b) staff
   c) visitors
   on premises owned by your trust and the total amount of compensation paid out by your trust for physical attacks in each case.

Answer: Please see response above.

3) For each of the last five financial years from April 2010, please provide the number of physical attacks by visitors on
   a) patients
   b) staff
   c) visitors
   on premises owned by your trust and the total amount of compensation paid out by your trust for physical attacks in each case.

Answer: Please see response above.