

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 9th June 2025

FOI Ref No 29143

Requested Information:

Physical assaults against staff who fall within the legal definition of "emergency worker" under the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018.

Please provide the following information in relation to your Trust:

- 1) For the period 1st January 2022 to 31st May 2025, how many physical assaults were committed against staff who meet the legal definition of an emergency worker?
(As defined in s.3(1) of the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 – i.e. persons employed to provide, or support the provision of, NHS health services and whose general duties involve face-to-face interaction with patients or the public.)
- 2) Of those assaults, how many were reported to the police?
- 3) Of those reported to the police, how many resulted in a criminal justice outcome, defined for the purpose of this request as one or more of the following:
 - A police charge
 - A caution
 - A conviction
 - An acquittal

The legal definition of an emergency worker can be found here for your reference:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/23/section/3/enacted>

Response:

- 1) RCHT have a total of 1083 incidents that have been categorised as aggression or violence towards staff (physical), within the time frame.
 - Please be advised that many of these incidents will relate to unintended violence, where the patients' condition may be a factor.
- 2) RCHT have 57 records that have been updated with a crime number, indicating police involvement.
- 3) RCHT does not keep record of this information.

Attachment(s):

No Attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 2nd July 2025