

Trust Headquarters  
Russells Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

Date: 06/11/2013

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/011634**

With reference to your FOI request that was received on 25/10/2013 in connection with 'Emergency Department Attendances'.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed.

**Information Commissioner**

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Fax: 01625 524510  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Manager  
Room 34a, First Floor, Esk House, Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, DY1 2HQ  
Email: [FOI@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@dgh.nhs.uk)

- 1) Since October 1st 2008, the number of males aged 18 and over arriving at A&E to be treated whilst intoxicated (under the influence of alcohol or drugs).
- 2) Since October 1st 2008, the number of females aged 18 over arriving at A&E to be treated whilst intoxicated
- 3) Since October 1st 2008, the number of males aged 17 and under arriving at A&E to be treated whilst intoxicated.
- 4) Since October 1st 2008, the number of females aged 17 and under arriving at A&E to be treated whilst intoxicated

In response to questions 1 - 4 the A&E clinical coding only codes what the patient presented with for treatment, for example, cut to the head, fractured arm etc, and how that injury was treated, for example X-ray, any medication given, dressing etc. The A&E clinical coding does not code if the patient was also intoxicated at the time.

- 5) Since October 1st 2008, the number of incidents recorded of verbal abuse against NHS staff. If the information is kept and falls within the compliance costs, please indicate how many of these incidents involved an intoxicated individual.
- 6) Since October 1st 2008, the number of incidents recorded of physical abuse against NHS staff. If the information is kept and falls within the compliance costs, please indicate how many of these incidents involved an intoxicated individual.
- 7) Since October 1st 2008, the number of incidents in which hospital security were called to deal with an intoxicated individual at A&E.

In response to question 5 - 7. The Trust has two incident databases covering this period.

The recent incident database DATIX was set up from November 2010.

The number of incidents recorded for physical and verbal abuse against NHS staff by patients for the period November 2010 to date is 396. To find out if the abuser was intoxicated at the time of the abuse would require the investigator to review each of the electronic documents in detail to locate that information as the word 'intoxicated' does not form part of the reporting criteria, as intoxication is secondary to the abuse caused. It is the abuse that is logged primarily.

To collate this information would take approximately 5 minutes per record.

396 incidents multiplied by 5 minutes per record = 1980 minutes = 33 hours.

33 hours x £25 per hour (rate charged as per the Information Commissioner's guidance) = £865 to provide the information.

This cost does not take into consideration the older data base from 2008 to November 2010, there would be an additional cost for that. A calculation has not been undertaken as the cost above is already above the Freedom of Information limit of £450 or 18 hours to collate.

- 8) Since October 1st 2008, the number of NHS staff working at A&E who have resigned citing stress or suffering abuse as a factor. Please ignore this request should it raise the cost of this FOI above the compliance costs. Please see costs under item 7