

24 November 2022

## Workplace MSD injuries regarding clinical staff

### Request

- **Baseline data from 2018 to 2022 regarding clinical staff who have sustained a workplace musculoskeletal disorder (MSD's) / injury in the NHS per healthcare organisation**

Please detail the:

- ***Number of workplace MSD's / injuries per 1000 clinical staff?***

Reported incidents from 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2022 (as recorded on the Incident Reporting System at 08/11/22)

122 incidents were reported during this period involving clinical staff sustaining a workplace musculoskeletal injury when assisting with repositioning, transfer, rehabilitation, treatment, dressings or daily activities (such as bathing) of patients who have specific needs.

\* please note: it has not been possible to ascertain the number of all clinical staff in the Trust, to allow us to work out the rate of incidents. The figures we have provided is the number of incidents reported within the period rather than the rate.

- ***Body locations for the reported workplace musculoskeletal injuries\****

<b>Body Part</b>	<b>Total Injuries</b>
Back	85
Shoulder	25
Wrist/hand	9
Neck	8
Leg/knee	5
Arm	4
Hip	4
Trunk	2

\*Please note 17 incidents were reported with injuries relating to more than one body part

**24 November 2022**

- ***Number of moving and handling / safe patient handling facilitators for each clinical environment?***

The **Belfast Trust Ergonomics Team** who have overarching responsibility for Moving and Handling issues across the organisation **have 6.36 WTE staff**. This can be further broken down into –  
2.0 WTE covering MPH and BCH  
2.8 WTE covering RVH and MIH  
1.56 WTE covering Community

As per original request this Team is responsible for the training of Facilitators who are the links between ourselves and clinical areas, wards, day centres, specialist teams etc across the Trust.

As per end of last financial year lists are as follows:

**99 Patient handling facilitators ( PHFs) – MPH and BCH**  
**121 PHFs – RVH and MIH**  
**73 Client handling facilitators (CHFs) – Community.**

***This is a total of – 293 FACILITATORS***

- ***Number of RIDDOR reportable workplace MSD's / injury reported?***

Between 1st April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup>March 2022, a total of 27 incidents were reported under RIDDOR.

The information is based on RIDDOR's associated with lifting/manual handling injuries, if the MSD category is advised as broader we can review. All 27 incidents were categorised under RIDDOR as over three day injuries.

- ***Average sickness absence cost including replacement staff?***

We do not have access to data on backfill so we can only partially answer this question

For the period April 21 to March 22:  
Cost of absence = £52,680,620  
Headcount approx = 22,000  
Average absence (cost/ Headcount) = **£2,395 per employee**

- ***Number of litigation cases and associated settlement costs?***

In terms of litigation, one case settled (£20,000) that fits into the requestors descriptors over the defined time period.