

4 August 2026

Incidents of Violence & Aggression in Emergency Departments (EDs)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information relating to reported incidents of violence and aggression within Emergency Departments (EDs) operated by the Trust.

Please provide the following information for each ED site managed by the Trust, broken down by month, between January 2018 and May 2026.

1. **Please provide the total number of reported incidents involving violence, aggression, or abusive behaviour in Emergency Departments**

Response attached in separate Excel spreadsheet.

2. **Where available, please separately categorise [LO1] incidents by type, including:**

- **Verbal abuse**
- **Threats of violence**
- **Physical assault**
- **Sexual harassment**
- **Discrimination-based abuse (because of: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation).**

Response attached in separate Excel spreadsheet.

Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure where numbers are very low, i.e. <5, as this information would reduce numbers to discoverable limits where individuals could be personally identifiable.

The information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party.

Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

In reaching this decision, Belfast Trust has taken into account the small geographical area that Belfast Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition, the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.