

Date 10 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11593

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – RACIAL ABUSE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to racial abuse.

Question:

- To ask how many incidents have been reported by your staff members in relation to racial/racist/race related abuse, whether by patients or anyone else.
 - If possible, could you disclose the nature of the report (verbal abuse, physical assault etc).
 - Could this information be provided for the following years – 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Answer:

We have provided data reported under the adverse event category of **Violence & Aggression**.

There were 531 adverse events (incidents) reported by staff in NHS Lothian for the period 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2025, where a contributory factor of **racial abuse** was also reported. The data is broken down by Sub Category and Calendar year.

Racial Abuse	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Carrying an offensive weapon	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Other to Staff violence (physical)	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5
Other to Staff aggression (verbal)	≤5	≤5	7	≤5	6
Patient to Other aggression (verbal)	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Patient to Other violence (physical)	0	≤5	0	0	≤5
Patient to Patient aggression (verbal)	7	≤5	≤5	11	≤5
Patient to Patient violence (physical)	≤5	≤5	10	≤5	≤5
Patient to Staff aggression (verbal)	49	28	46	60	73
Patient to Staff violence (physical)	14	24	13	33	51
Staff to Patient aggression (verbal)	0	0	≤5	≤5	≤5
Staff to Patient violence (physical)	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0
Staff to Staff aggression (verbal)	0	0	≤5	0	≤5
Staff to Staff violence (physical)	0	0	≤5	0	0
Other - Please only use if no alternative	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	9

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive