

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 23-142	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
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**Please see attached freedom of information request regarding the use of restrictive practice in mental health inpatient settings. To clarify, the request below covers both adults and children and young people within the remit of the health board.**

**This request is in relation to recorded instances of restrictive practices within mental health inpatient settings managed by your Local Health Board. We recognise that restrictive practices may be recorded in a number of ways. This request relates exclusively to electronically recorded instances of restrictive practices, for example, those recorded within the Datix electronic records management system.**

**Please could you provide me with the following information in relation to restrictive practice within mental health inpatient settings for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22:**

As requested, the below data is collated from the electronic incident management system used by the Health Board; RL Datix.

The Health Board requires that all instances of restrictive practice are recorded, for whatever purpose, including, for example, to facilitate essential personal care, to guide a distressed person with dementia to a different room or for venepuncture.

It should not be assumed therefore that every incidence of restrictive practice is a restraint.

**a) The total number of recorded instances of restrictive practices.**

These figures reflect the number of times a restrictive practice was used. Please note they do not reflect the number of people who were restricted. i.e. one person could have experienced restrictive practice on a number of occasions.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
412	446	489	506	789

**b) The type of restrictive practice used (e.g. physical, mechanical or chemical restraint, or the isolation of a patient);**

The figures above all reflect physical restrictive practice.

**c) If physical restraint was used, was the individual restrained in a prone or supine position;**

2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
Prone	Supine	Prone	Supine	Prone	Supine	Prone	Supine	Prone	Supine
41	41	43	21	37	67	27	29	36	40

**d) The reason(s) for the use of restrictive practice;**

The Health Board does not hold this information.

**e) Where (e.g. which ward) and when the restrictive practice was used;**

Ward	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>s136 suite</b>	1	7	3	4	12
<b>Adult Acute admission ward</b>	208	178	202	218	294
<b>Dementia Assessment ward</b>	128	176	108	130	213
<b>PICU</b>	65	68	146	122	234
<b>Rehabilitation ward</b>	3	3	18	15	12
<b>Older Adult Acute admission ward</b>	7	14	12	17	24

**f) The length of the restrictive practice;**

Year	1. Less than 5 minutes	2. Between 5 and 10 minutes	3. Between 10 and 15 minutes	4. Between 15 and 30 minutes	5. Between 30 and 45 minutes	6. Between 45 minutes and 1hr	7. Greater than 1 hour
<b>2017</b>	201	101	42	37	11	10	10
<b>2018</b>	231	100	46	38	18	5	8
<b>2019</b>	290	97	44	40	5	7	6
<b>2020</b>	349	80	21	32	11	3	10
<b>2021</b>	467	168	79	47	16	7	5

**g) The known impact on the individual, including any injuries, and any risks to their physical or mental wellbeing;**

Injury to the patient is noted as below. Injury in all records is noted as minor e.g., superficial scratch.

Year	Yes
<b>2017</b>	9
<b>2018</b>	6
<b>2019</b>	6
<b>2020</b>	5
<b>2021</b>	11

We are unable to provide further details as this would involve reviewing and anonymise each record. Therefore, in order to comply with your request, the Health Board has established that this would exceed the appropriate costs limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act

2000 which is currently £450. As you will be aware this is not an exemption which requires us to consider the application of the public interest test. We have calculated that it would take in excess of 18 hours to review each incident.

**h) The protected characteristics of the individual, including age, gender, sex, disability, (broken down by impairment type, and ethnicity);**

The Health Board is unable to provide data around protected characteristics other than sex as this is not routinely recorded as yet. The following table shows sex (male/female) and the number that are 'unrecorded' as sex is not a mandatory field on the datix system.

Year	Female	Male	Unrecorded
2017	209	120	83
2018	196	140	110
2019	220	157	112
2020	227	154	125
2021	485	157	147

**i) The outcome of any incident review, including any measures that will be taken to avoid or minimise restrictive practices and the risk of harm in future;**

In order to determine this information, we would have to review and anonymise each record. Therefore, in order to comply with your request, the Health Board has established that this would exceed the appropriate costs limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which is currently £450. As you will be aware this is not an exemption which requires us to consider the application of the public interest test. We have calculated that it would take in excess of 18 hours to review each incident.

**j) The individual's involvement in the review;**

In order to determine this information, we would have to review and anonymise each record. Therefore, in order to comply with your request, the Health Board has established that this would exceed the appropriate costs limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which is currently £450. As you will be aware this is not an exemption which requires us to consider the application of the public interest test. We have calculated that it would take in excess of 18 hours to review each incident.

**k) A record to confirm that the relevant family members and carers have been informed and when this happened;**

In order to determine this information, we would have to review and anonymise each record. Therefore, in order to comply with your request, the Health Board has established that this would exceed the appropriate costs limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which is currently £450. As you will be aware this is not an exemption which requires us to consider the application of the public interest test. We have calculated that it would take in excess of 18 hours to review each incident.

**l) Incidents of the use of mechanical restraint;**

Mechanical restraint is not used within the Health Board.

**m) Incidents of seclusion.**

At present, incidents of seclusion are not reported via Datix, however a policy is in development to guide practice and reporting.