



Information Resilience and Transparency

Please ask for: Kelly Leeson
FOI Reference: 10974577
Phone: +443000417061
Email:
kcc.information@email.icasework.com
Date: 17 January 2020

Dear Ms Chalmers

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 relating to Staff Assaults. Please see the response attached and below:

***Please could you tell me how many social workers and teachers have been assaulted whilst working for Kent County Council in the last two years?
Of these how many were physical assaults?
How many were verbal assaults?
How many were sexual assaults?***

KCC do not hold information regarding teaching staff assaults. Please refer your request regarding teachers to the individual schools required.

Kent County Council do not centrally collect information in relation to social workers assaults and is therefore not held in a reportable format.

Kent County Council has reporting mechanisms in place for all staff, including Social Workers, to report incidents of physical, verbal or sexual assaults. Whilst some incidents 'caused by assault or violent behaviour' may be reported to the Health and Safety team, it may be that some incidents are dealt with locally (with members of staff supported by management personnel) and are not reported further. Incidents dealt with locally may result in onward referrals to other statutory agencies or services, as necessary to support the individual(s) affected. Kent County Council's Lone Working and Personal Safety Policy is attached.

How many were reported to the police?

Kent County Council do not centrally collect this information and is therefore not held in a reportable format.

Any serious incidents of assault would be reported to the police.

How many resulted in prosecutions?

KCC do not hold this information. Please refer your question to the Police.

How many were successful prosecutions?

KCC do not hold this information. Please refer your question to the Police.

What actions were taken by Kent County Council?

What are Kent County Council's policies around staff safety and do Kent County Council have a positive action policy regarding supporting prosecutions of perpetrators of assaults?

Any incidents as described above would be a police matter and would therefore be investigated by the police. The worker would be supported by their Manager from KCC perspective. Staff would get relevant support from KCC staff care services / support line and line Manager. KCC doesn't tolerate verbal, physical abuse or threats, and where any risk is identified around an individual if the individual is receiving care, it would be recorded on their case notes / files. If a return visit is planned workers do not visit the client alone and will risk assess the situation to ensure they are safe and well. Staff do work alone and are required to call / check in to the after visits – this is standard practice across the board.

If you are unhappy with this response, and believe KCC has not complied with legislation, you have 40 working days from the date of this response to ask for a review. You can do this by following our complaints process; details can be found at this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/complaints-and-compliments#tab-9> on our website. Please quote reference 10974577.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner, who oversees compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Details of what you need to do, should you wish to pursue this course of action, are available from the Information Commissioner's website <http://ico.org.uk/concerns>

Yours sincerely

Kelly Leeson
Information Access Officer