

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_258_16

You asked:

According to the most recent data recorded, in the past 12 months how many incidents of physical assault or verbal abuse have been recorded by social workers and health visitors while on duty?

Our response:

I can confirm that between the 01/09/2015 - 01/09/2016 there have been less than 5 incidents of verbal abuse against Health Visitors recorded. There have been no physical assaults reported.

The exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved. This is due to the potential risk of identification if we released the number of assaults for the specific year, in a small service, which might then be linked with other information available in the public domain. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 1998, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles set out in Schedules 2 and 3 of the Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and does not require the Health Board to consider the public interest test.

Please note, the Health Board does not employ social workers. For this information you will need to redirect this element of your request to the Local Authorities. Please see provided below the links to the relevant Local Authorities that cover the Cwm Taf area:

Rhondda Cynon Taf

<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/DataProtectionandFreedomofInformation/FreedomofInformationAct.aspx>

Merthyr Tydfil

<http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/data-protection-and-freedom-of-information/freedom-of-information-request>