

'Not enough' being done to protect emergency workers



More offenders who assault emergency service workers need to be brought to justice, says GMB Union.

The Crown Prosecution Service today said **20,000 offenders were charged** between November 2018 and November 2019 under the landmark 'Protect the Protectors' legislation, which was passed following a long campaign by unions including GMB.

According to a recent GMB survey of ambulance workers, only 3.4 per cent said that the risk of violence had reduced since the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act was put into force.



“ Success! Today the 'Protect the Protectors' law receives Royal Assent.

This victory must now be followed up with a Government publicity campaign and proper enforcement action to make sure that those who attack emergency workers are brought to justice. [#ProtectTheProtectors pic.twitter.com/jtDaM5OIOB](https://twitter.com/jtDaM5OIOB)

– GMB Union (@GMB_union) [September 13, 2018](#)

The legislation made it a specific offence to commit a common assault against an emergency worker. It is also now an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes when an emergency worker is a victim of other types of assault.

Rehana Azam, GMB National Secretary, said:

“Every prosecution is a small victory but not enough is being done to protect our public service heroes.

	Ambulance	NHS	Total
Don't know	22.3	56.8	41.1
No	74.2	38.6	54.8
Yes	3.4	4.6	4.1

“No one should go to work in fear of violence and abuse. It's time to give our heroic emergency workers the protection they deserve.

“Having secured the passage of this landmark legislation, much more must now be done to secure closer working between employers and agencies to ensure that more prosecutions are brought and offenders held to account.”

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