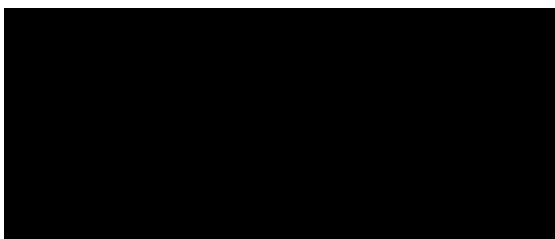


28 March 2019



Re Official Information Request – Number of assaults on health staff over the past three years

I refer to your official information request of 23 January 2019 received by the Auckland DHB on transfer for questions 1-13 from the Ministry of Health on 28 January 2019. Your request was subsequently extended to Thursday 28 March 2019 to enable a decision about your request for the following information:

- 1. The overall number of recorded assaults on health service staff over the last three years to enable a year by year comparison.**
- 2. The overall number of incidents where health service staff and been threatened or verbally abused over the last three years to enable a year by year comparison.**
- 3. The number of assaults on health service staff within the mental health field over the same time period.**
- 4. The number of incidents where mental health staff have been threatened or verbally abused.**
- 5. The number of injuries sustained by health service staff over the last three years including those injured whilst working.**
- 6. The number of injuries sustained by mental health staff over the last three years.**
- 7. The number of convictions against individuals who have assaulted health service staff over the last three years.**
- 8. The number of convictions against individuals who have assaulted mental health staff over the last three years.**
- 9. The number of individuals who have been sent to prison for assaulting health service staff.**
- 10. The number of individuals who have been sent to prison for assaulting mental health staff.**
- 11. The number of physical restraints required by health service staff to contain someone due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.**
- 12. The number of physical restraints required by mental health staff to contain someone due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.**
- 13. The number of times police have been called to assist with managing individuals who were exhibiting aggressive/violent behaviours.**

A Datix Safety Management System was introduced in 2017. This accounts for the increase in reported numbers between 2017 and 2018 as per the information below.

1. ***The overall number of recorded assaults on health service staff over the last three years to enable a year by year comparison annual number of incident.***

Annual number of incidents	2017	2018	2019
	360	557	85

2. ***The overall number of incidents where health service staff and been threatened or verbally abused over the last three years to enable a year by year comparison.***

Incidents of health service staff threatened or verbally abused

	2017	2018	2019
Patient to Staff: Verbal	87	97	23
Patient to Staff: Physical threat (no contact)	46	49	5
Patient to Staff: Physical Contact	216	376	41
Patient to Staff: Sexual Assault	0	1	4
Visitor/whanau to staff: Verbal	10	34	10
Visitor/whanau to staff: Physical Contact	1	0	2

- 3-4. ***The number of assaults on health service staff within the mental health field over the same time period and the number of incidents where mental health staff have been threatened or verbally abused.***

Mental health staff threats, assaults, and verbal abuse

	2017	2018	2019
Mental Health & Addictions	195	204	16

5. ***The number of injuries sustained by health service staff over the last three years including those injured whilst working.***
This request is declined under section 18(f) in that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.
6. ***The number of injuries sustained by mental health staff over the last three years.***
This request is declined under section 18(f) in that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.
7. ***The number of convictions against individuals who have assaulted health service staff over the last three years.***
This request is declined under section 18(e) in that the document does not exist or cannot be found.
8. ***The number of convictions against individuals who have assaulted mental health staff over the last three years.***
This request is declined under section 18(e) in that the document does not exist or cannot be found.

9. The number of individuals who have been sent to prison for assaulting health service staff.
This request is declined under section 18(e) in that the document does not exist or cannot be found.

10. The number of individuals who have been sent to prison for assaulting mental health staff.
This request is declined under section 18(e) in that the document does not exist or cannot be found.

11. The number of physical restraints required by health service staff to contain someone due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.
This request is declined under section 18(f) in that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

12. The number of physical restraints required by mental health staff to contain someone due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.
This request is declined under section 18(f) in that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

13. The number of times police have been called to assist with managing individuals who were exhibiting aggressive/violent behaviours.
This request is declined under section 18(e) in that the document does not exist or cannot be found.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive