

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165

carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz

7 August 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10359

I refer to your email dated 7 July 2020 sent to Ministry of Health which they subsequently transferred to us on 21 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. **The number of complaints from mental health workers alleging they were assaulted in the workplace within the last 3 years. For each complainant please provide the following information...**
 - a. **age, sex, job title of the complainant**
 - b. **allegation details and date**
 - c. **all investigations outcomes (including but not restricted to all investigation reports)**
 - d. **if not investigated why not**
 - e. **was there any criminal prosecution and details of the outcome**
 - f. **if there was no criminal prosecution why not**

2. **The number of complaints from health workers alleging they were assaulted while working at the Emergency Department over the last three years. For each complainant please provide the following information...**
 - a. **age, sex, job title of the complainant**
 - b. **allegation details and date**
 - c. **all investigations outcomes (including but not restricted to all investigation reports)**
 - d. **if not investigated why not**
 - e. **was there any criminal prosecution and details of the outcome**
 - f. **if there was no criminal prosecution why not**

3. The number of complaints from health workers who have made allegations they were assaulted while working at maternity services over the last 3 years. For each complaint please provide the following information...
 - a. age, sex, job title of the complainant
 - b. allegation details and date
 - c. all investigations outcomes (including but not restricted to all investigation reports)
 - d. if not investigated why not
 - e. was there any criminal prosecution and details of the outcome?
 - f. If there was no criminal prosecution, why not?

The wellbeing and safety of our patients and people is extremely important to us and staff work extremely hard to maintain a safe environment across our services. We encourage our people to record all incidents involving violence and aggression.

The data below is supplied from our incident management system, Safety 1st. We have provided the data recorded as Health and Safety incidents involving staff as reported through our Employee and Contractor event forms.

From July 2017 to June 2020, there were 1,161 incidents recorded with the mechanism of harm 'physical assault' for mental Health Workers and Emergency Department workers. There were no reports of physical assaults reported by Canterbury DHB Maternity workers over the last three years.

These figures are based on the initial assessment of event type by the person recording the event in our centralised electronic recording system.

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the number of physical assaults reported by Canterbury DHB mental Health workers over the last 3 years including those injured while working. Please refer to **Table two** (below) for the number of physical assaults reported by Canterbury DHB Emergency Department workers over the last 3 years including those injured while working.

Table one: Number of reported Physical assaults reported by Canterbury DHB mental health staff over last three years

July to June 2017 - 2020	
2017-2018	524
2018-2019	299
2019 - 2020	271
Total	1073

Table two: Number of reported Physical assaults reported by Canterbury DHB Emergency Department staff over last three years

July to June - 2017-2020	
2017-2018	23
2018-2019	34
2019 - 2020	31
Total	88

We are declining to provide the requested level of detail under sections 18(f) and 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act for questions a, b, c and d. We believe to provide details on who submitted the event, or the brief factual description would provide too much detail and could identify the person and the incident.

We do not hold this information and are therefore declining a response to questions e and f under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. 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 Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support