

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## 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](mailto:carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz)

25 September 2018

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### RE Official information request CDHB 9935

We refer to your email dated 31 August 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding HQSC data released on 06 July 2018 indicating that Canterbury DHB had 26 suspected suicides for the 2016/2017 year. Specifically:

**Of these 26 suspected suicides, I am seeking information about the following subgroup patients aged 15 – 24 years at the time of death.**

The information that I am seeking is:

- **the total number of patients in this subgroup**
- **the number of patients of Maori or Pacific Islander ethnicity**

There were three young people in the 15 – 24 year old subgroup. We are declining to identify the ethnicity of these young people under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. *...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased.*

- **the number of patients commenced on SSRI antidepressant therapy within 3 months of death occurring and,**

None of the patients had been commenced on SSRI antidepressant therapy by the Canterbury DHB's Specialist Mental Health Service in the three months prior to their death.

- **Within this subgroup: • the specific SSRI antidepressant prescribed and the number of weeks between the commencement of the SSRI and death occurring.**

See response above.

If you disagree with our decision to withhold information you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from the Ombudsman.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

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 horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**