

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10112

I refer to your email dated 29 May 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- 1. Since January 1, 2018 until today's date, on how many occasions have Police or hospital security been called to help contain issues with patients or visitors who were believed to be impaired by alcohol? This should include but not be limited to incidents at the Emergency Department.**

It is not a requirement of our incident reporting system to record whether an incident involved intoxicated/alcohol impaired patients or visitors. In an attempt to answer this question we searched our incident reporting database using the following search terms "Alcohol", "Police", "Drunk", "Security" and/or "Intoxicated".

We have reviewed all reports where one of more of these search terms was used and can confirm that there were 10 incidents reported between 1 January 2018 and 30 May 2019 when either police or hospital security were involved to help contain issues with intoxicated/alcohol impaired patients or visitors.

- 2. Since January 1, 2018 until today's date, how many staff have reported being abused, harassed or physically assaulted by patients or people visiting patients who were suspected of being under the influence of alcohol? This should include but not be limited to reports of issues at the Emergency Department. Please provide a breakdown of the various incidents with a brief description of what happened.**

It is not a requirement of our incident reporting system to record whether an assault involved intoxicated/alcohol impaired patients or visitors. In an attempt to answer this question we searched assaults reported in our incident reporting database using the following search terms "Alcohol", "Drunk" and/or "Intoxicated".

We have reviewed all reports where one of more of these search terms was used and can confirm that there were 31 individual employee events reported between 1 January 2018 and 30 May 2019 where staff were verbally abused or physically threatened by intoxicated patients or visitors.

- 21 verbally abusive
- 5 verbally abusive and physically threatening
- 1 physically threatening
- 1 physical assault
- 3 inappropriate behaviour, (showing genitals, trying to kiss staff, holding staff hand and trying to rest head on shoulder).

We acknowledge that due to the above limitations in our reporting system we are currently underreporting the incidences where the patient or visitor was impaired by alcohol. To provide further context we submit the results of a focused piece of analysis, which reported that of the 52 individuals identified as perpetrators of violence or aggression in May 2019, 27 (52%) were recorded as likely affected by alcohol.

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, sweeping underline.

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