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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10207

I refer to your email dated 17 October 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- **A list showing the total number of assaults recorded by the CDHB over the last 5 years, including the current year. This includes but is not limited to assaults on all patients, staff, contractors and visitors.**

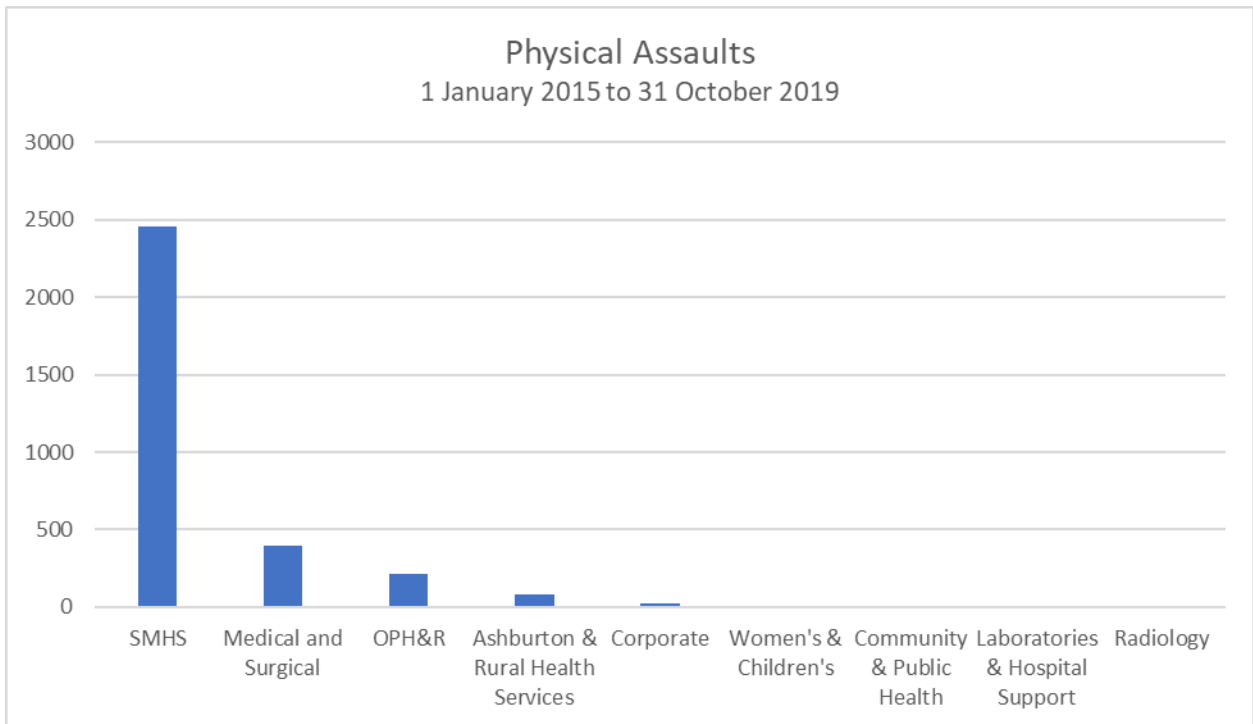
I request this list include the following;

- **The exact date, time and location that each assault took place;**
- **The role of the person carrying out the assault, and the role of the victim (ie, patient attacks nurse);**
- **A brief description of what took place, including whether injuries were sustained, what those injuries and what was used to inflict those injuries (ie, whether weapons were involved, the number of punches, etc).**

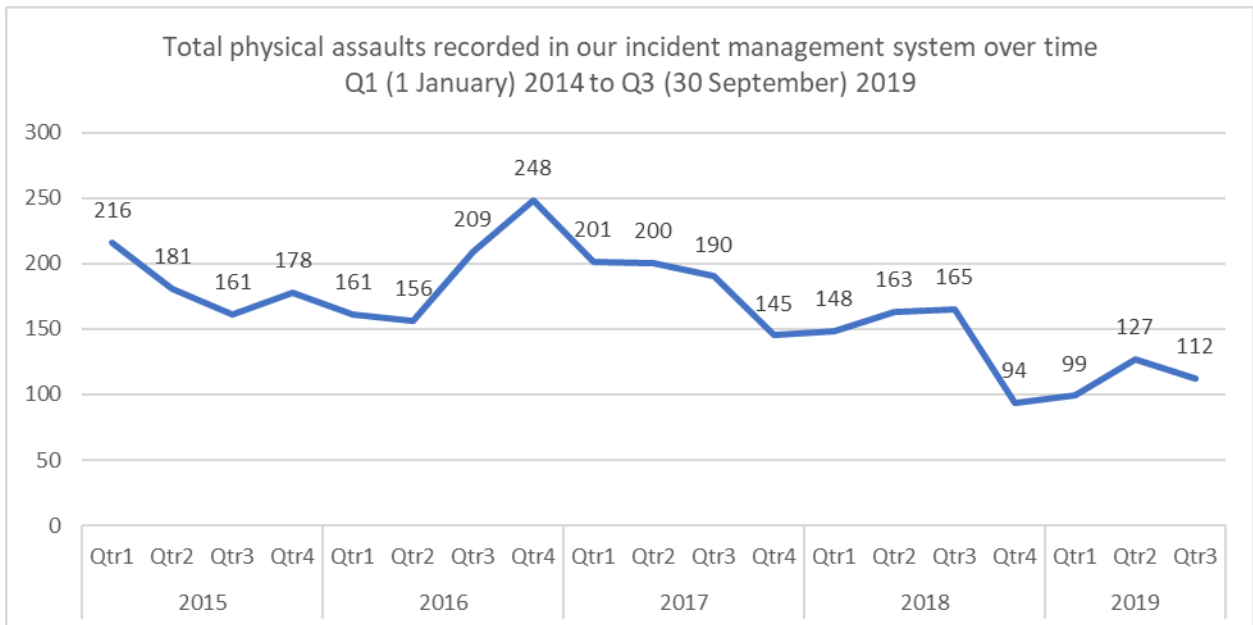
The wellbeing and safety of our patients and people is extremely important to us and staff work extremely hard to maintain a safe environment across our services.

From 1 January 2015 to 31 October 2019, there were 3,183 incidents recorded with the mechanism of harm *'physical assault'* as assessed by the person recording the event. This data is extracted from the Canterbury DHB electronic incident reporting system and includes non-injury, injury and near miss events. Additionally, the Canterbury DHB actively encourages all of our people to report events involving violence and aggression. This can result in duplication as single events are reported by multiple people.

Of the 3,183 physical assaults that were recorded 336 have been accepted as ACC work injury claims with a mechanism of harm *'being hit, struck or bitten by person'* as at 30 September 2019, and may have received medical treatment or time off work.



The quantity of physical assaults has been decreasing over time, as shown in the graph below, with the average incidents per quarter decreasing from 193 in 2016 to 113 in 2019.



The remaining requested information cannot be provided as it would require substantial collection and research based on the volume of data involved. We are therefore declining to provide this level of detail under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

I trust that 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Macfarlane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Macfarlane
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support