

**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)

17 April 2019

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**RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10042**

I refer to your email dated 20 February 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding staff being assaulted, harassed and injured by patients between 2016 and 2019 year to date (20 February 2019). Specifically:

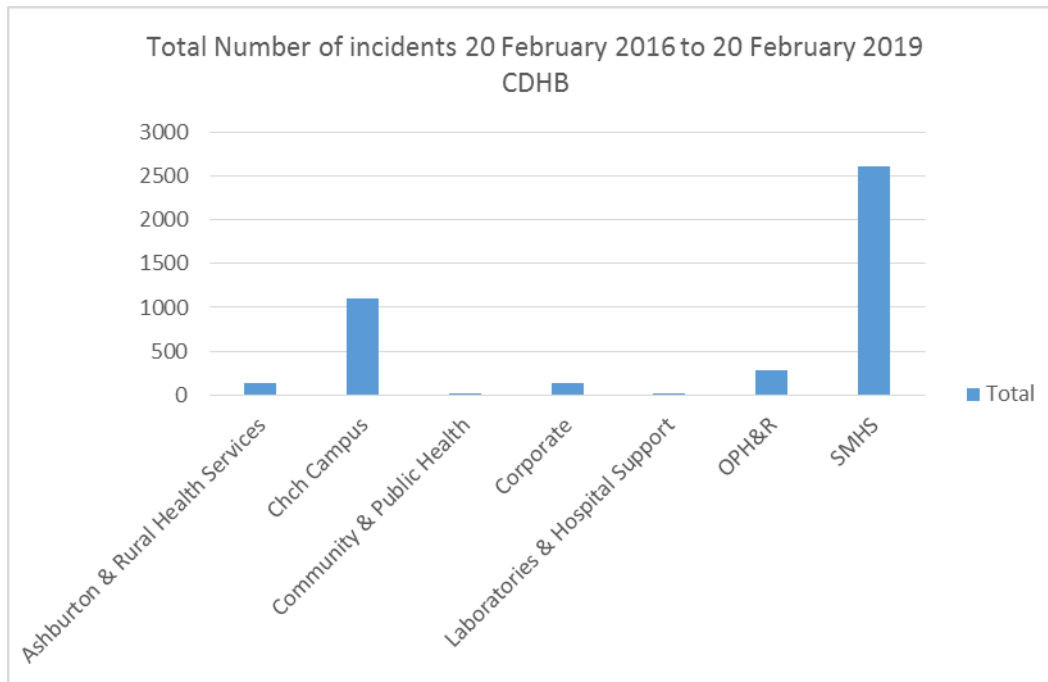
- 1. Data/numbers/figures of all incidents involving any DHB staffer being harassed, assaulted, hurt, injured, threatened, maimed or implicated in an altercation with any patient from any ward/area under the DHB's jurisdiction over the last three years to date (ie from February 20, 2016, to present day, February 20, 2019).**
- 2. Could the DHB please, with the data, provide a breakdown of when each incident occurred (ie date), when it was recorded/reported and by who, a brief description of each incident including details of the assault/threat/injury/harassment, and what the outcome was of each incident ie. Whether a patient was sectioned/transferred/arrested or whether the staffer involved had treatment.**

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 20 February 2016 to 20 February 2019, there were 2383 incidents recorded with the mechanism of harm '*physical assault*'. For the event type, '*verbal abuse*', 1450 incidents were recorded over the same period. Finally, for the event type, '*psychological harm*', 380 incidents were recorded over the same period. Note that multiple categories may be selected for one incident. These figures are based on the initial assessment of event type by the person recording the event in our centralised electronic recording system.

We encourage our people to record all incidents involving violence and aggression. Of the 2383 Physical assaults that were recorded 247 received medical treatment and were accepted as ACC work injury claims with a mechanism of harm '*being hit, struck or bitten by person*'.

**Figure 1 – Specific Events Reported CDHB by Division [20 February 2016 – February 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.

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. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz); or Free phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of it, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

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