

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165
Ralph.Jasalle@cdhb.health.nz

19 April 2021

9(2)(a)

RE Official information Act request CDHB 10559

I refer to your email dated 11 March 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. I also note your clarification received dated 17 March 2021. Specifically:

1. **How many mental health incidents there have been in the Canterbury District Health Board area from 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2020**
 - a. **I would like the fatal and non-fatal incidents to be made clear**

Due to a change in our incident reporting systems, we are only able to provide data from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020.

Analysis was completed for incident reports, submitted across Specialist Mental Health Service (SMHS) inpatient and outpatient services between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2020.

- Total reported 'Self Harm' (non-fatal) events is 2198 events.
 - 74% of these events were coded as 'Minor' or 'Minimal' in terms of consequence/severity.
 - 98% of these events occurred in inpatient settings where acuity, risk factors and levels of distress are generally heightened.
 - Some of the incidents reported could be considered 'attempted' self-harm where staff have been able to intervene to prevent the situation escalating.
- Total reported 'Unexpected Death' events where actual or suspected suicide is indicated is 92 Events.
 - 90% of these events occurred in an outpatient context where the event occurred in the community (not in SMHS services).
 - Data also includes events where the individual had only brief contact with SMHS and/or where death occurred within 28 days of discharge from services.
 - There are a small number of additional events where the cause of death is unconfirmed or inconclusive.

2. How many mental health incidents there have been in the Canterbury District Health Board area from 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2009.

a. I would like the fatal and non-fatal incidents to be made clear

Canterbury DHB does not hold information in an easily retrievable electronic system for incidents in this period. We are therefore declining your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act i.e. "...the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research".

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



Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support