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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10501

I refer to your email dated 7 December 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

Date/numbers/figures of all incidents involving any DHB staff member (including contractors or causal workers) being harassed or, physically or verbally assaulted by a patient from any ward/area under the DHB's jurisdiction in the last three years to date (07/12/2017 – 07/12/2020).

The wellbeing health 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. We encourage our people to record all incidents involving violence and aggression.

From 1 December 2017 to 30 November 2020, there were 1474 incidents recorded with the mechanism of harm 'physical assault', 212 of these resulted in ACC claims. For the event type, 'verbal abuse, threat and harassment', 1323 incidents were recorded over the same period.

These figures are based on the initial assessment of event type by the person recording the event in our Health and Safety Event form in the centralised electronic recording system. Without looking at each individual record we cannot identify whether these incidents involved a patient or other person.

I trust 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



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