

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10090

I refer to your email dated 24 April 2019 requesting the following information from Canterbury DHB regarding assaults against nursing staff from 2013-2018.

**I understand an electronic incident report system was only implemented in 2015, so I am happy to only have data from 2015-2018.**

- **How many assaults against nurses by members of the public/patients, broken down by each year from 2015-2018?**

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

From 2015 to 2018, there were 2904 incidents recorded with the mechanism of harm '*physical assault*' as follows:

- 856 incidents recorded in 2015
- 734 incidents recorded in 2016
- 736 incidents recorded in 2017
- 569 incidents recorded in 2018

This data is extracted from the Canterbury DHB electronic incident reporting system and includes both non-injury, injury and near miss events. The Canterbury DHB actively encourages all of our people to report events involving violence and aggression.

The number of assaults provided is for all Canterbury DHB staff and the information pertaining only to nurses 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 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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