



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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## *Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

Corporate Office  
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400  
Fax 03 769-7791

12 July 2018

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### **RE Official information request WCDHB 9156**

We refer to your email dated 14 June 2018 requesting the following information under section 12 of the Official Information Act (the 'Act') from West Coast.

***For the last five years:***

***Would you please be able to provide me with?***

- 1. The amount/number of drug-related visits to A&E?***

***If that doesn't work, maybe toxins? - in terms of overdose, spiked/drugged, or illicit-substance in their system?***

***If they don't disclose that specifically, could you please see how many people had been admitted to the hospital for drug-related causes? - Or if they maybe disclose if the reason was due to overdose, spiked/drugged/, or illicit substance in their system.***

***And if that fails too, would you be able to see the above mentioned information in regards to emergency ambulance call outs?***

### **Response:**

Please refer to **Table one** (overleaf) for the information you have requested regarding cases recorded as drug-related visits to the Emergency Department at Grey Base Hospital over the past five years. The term 'drug' covers both prescribed medication and non-prescribed substances. We are unable to distinguish between "deliberate overdose / accidental ingestion" cases versus "spiked /drugged by others", as our information database does not hold this level of detail. With these points about our available data noted, the number of presentations recorded for intentional drug overdose and recreational drug use with complications were as indicated in the table overleaf.

**Table one:**

<b>Drug-related Presentations at Grey Base Hospital Emergency Department</b>	<b>Number of Presentations</b>	<b>% of Total ED Presentations</b>
2013/14	26	0.23%
2014/15	5	0.43%
2015/16	53	0.45%
2016/17	43	0.38%
2017/18 *	63	0.58%

\* Data for the eleven month period to 31 May 2018.

West Coast DHB does not hold any data on the number of emergency ambulance call outs undertaken by St John we are therefore declining to provide this information under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



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