



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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2 April 2019

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9276

I refer to your email dated 24 January 2019, which was subsequently transferred to us from the Ministry of Health on 28 January 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding the number of assaults on health staff over the last three years. Specifically:

- 1. The overall number of recorded assaults on health service staff over the last three years to enable a year by year comparison.**
- 2. The overall number of incidents where health service staff have been threatened or verbally abused over the last three years to enable a year by year comparison.**
- 3. The number of assaults on health service staff within the mental health field over the same time period.**
- 4. The number of incidents where mental health staff have been threatened or verbally abused.**

We emailed you on 4 February 2019 our previous responses to very similar questions which we felt answered the above questions and at the time of writing we have not heard back from you.

- 5. The number of injuries sustained by health service staff over the last three years including those injured whilst working.**

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the number of injuries sustained by West Coast DHB health staff over the last three years.

Table one:

| Calendar year | |
|---------------|----|
| 2016 | 67 |
| 2017 | 73 |
| 2018 | 58 |

- 6. The number of injuries sustained by mental health staff over the last three years.**

Please refer to **Table two** (overleaf) for the number of injuries sustained by West Coast DHB mental health staff over the last three years.

Table two: Number of injuries sustained by West Coast DHB mental health staff over last three years.

| Calendar year | |
|---------------|----|
| 2016 | 12 |
| 2017 | 6 |
| 2018 | 8 |

7. The number of convictions against individuals who have assaulted health service staff over the last three years.
8. The number of convictions against individuals who have assaulted mental health staff over the last three years.
9. The number of individuals who have been sent to prison for assaulting health service staff.
10. The number of individuals who have been sent to prison for assaulting mental health staff.

We do not hold this information and are therefore declining a response to questions 7 - 10 under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

11. The number of physical restraints required by health service staff to contain someone due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.

Table three: Number of physical restraints required by health service staff to contain some due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.

| Calendar year | Physical restraint |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 2016 | 6 |
| 2017 | 2 |
| 2018 | 5 |

12. The number of physical restraints required by mental health staff to contain someone due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.

Table four: Number of physical restraints required by mental health staff to contain someone due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.

| Calendar year | Physical restraint |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 2016 | 4 |
| 2017 | 2 |
| 2018 | 4 |

13. The number of times police have been called to assist with managing individuals who were exhibiting aggressive/violent behaviours.

We do not hold this information and are therefore declining a response to this question under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

14. The number of times patients have required seclusion due to their aggressive/violent behaviour over the last three years.

Please refer to **Table five** (overleaf) for the number of times patients have required seclusion due to their aggressive/violent behaviour over the last three years.

Table five: Number of times patients have required seclusion due to their aggressive/violent behaviour.

| Calendar year | Seclusion |
|---------------|-----------|
| 2016 | 2 |
| 2017 | 7 |
| 2018 | 10 |

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; or Freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support