



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth

Telephone 03 768 0499
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24 August 2020

9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

RE Official information request WCDHB 9450

I refer to your email dated 7 July 2020 sent to Ministry of Health which they subsequently transferred to us on 21 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

1. The number of complaints from mental health workers alleging they were assaulted in the workplace within the last 3 years. For each complainant please provide the following information...
 - a. age, sex, job title of the complainant
 - b. allegation details and date
 - c. all investigations outcomes (including but not restricted to all investigation reports)
 - d. if not investigated why not
 - e. was there any criminal prosecution and details of the outcome
 - f. if there was no criminal prosecution why not
2. The number of complaints from health workers alleging they were assaulted while working at the Emergency Department over the last three years. age, sex, job title of the complainant ...
 - a. allegation details and date
 - b. all investigations outcomes (including but not restricted to all investigation reports)
 - c. if not investigated why not
 - d. was there any criminal prosecution and details of the outcome
 - e. if there was no criminal prosecution why not
3. The number of complaints from health workers who have made allegations they were assaulted while working at maternity services over the last 3 years. For each complaint please provide the following information...
 - a. age, sex, job title of the complainant
 - b. allegation details and date
 - c. all investigations outcomes (including but not restricted to all investigation reports)
 - d. if not investigated why not
 - e. was there any criminal prosecution and details of the outcome?
 - f. If there was no criminal prosecution, why not?

The wellbeing 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.

The data below is supplied from our incident management system, Safety 1st. We have provided the data recorded as Health and Safety incidents involving staff as reported through our Employee and Contractor and Patient Behaviour and Safety forms.

From July 2017 to June 2020, there were 33 incidents recorded with the mechanism of harm 'physical assault' for Mental Health Workers. There were 5 incidents recorded with the mechanism of harm 'physical assault' for Emergency Department workers. There were no reports of physical assaults sustained by West Coast DHB Maternity workers over the last three years. These figures are based on the initial assessment of event type by the person recording the event in our centralised electronic recording system.

RE questions a, b, c and d: We are declining to provide the requested level of detail pursuant to sections 18(f) and 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act. We believe to provide details on who submitted the event, dates and the brief factual description would provide too much detail and could identify the person and the incident. We also believe that to provide this level of detail would require a substantial amount of time and resource.

RE questions e and f: We do not hold this information and are therefore declining a response to these questions pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

I trust that 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 West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support