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2 May 2022

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10852 & WCDHB 9684

I refer to your email dated 6 April 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB regarding assaults on staff. Specifically:

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 (overleaf) is supplied from our incident management system, Safety 1st and from our ACC records. 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.

Due to the way that event types are recorded in our Incident reporting system we have provided the available data as follows:

1. The number of assaults on staff for years 2018,2019,2020,2021,2022 (to current date)

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for assaults on staff for calendar years 2018 – 2022 YTD. **Note:** this does not include verbal abuse.

a. Could I please have this broken down into minor, moderate, and serious assaults

We are declining to provide the requested level of detail pursuant to sections 18(f) of the Official Information Act. We believe that to provide this level of detail would require a substantial amount of time and resource.

b. Could I please have this broken down into physical and sexual assaults

Table one:

| CDHB | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 YTD |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| Assault – Physical | 556 | 409 | 529 | 465 | 44 |
| Assault – Sexual | | | 11 | 12 | <5 |
| WCDHB | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | |
| Assault – Physical | 22 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 12 |
| Assault – Sexual | | <5 | 0 | 0 | |

Notes: Table 1 source. Extract from Safety 1st Incident reporting System. Safety 1st incidents from 2018 – 2022 were analysed across categories relating to workplace violence.

We are declining to provide numbers <5 pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect individual privacy.

- c. For the assaults deemed moderate and serious, could I please have further details about what role the staff member holds (e.g. nurse, orderly etc), their gender, where they work, if the assault involved a weapon (please specify what the weapon was), what injuries were sustained, and what action was taken as a result (e.g. charges laid, etc).

Table two:

| CDHB | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 YTD |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|
| Physical assault resulting in ACC claim | 93 | 52 | 46 | 59 | 6 |
| WCDHB | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 YTD |
| Physical assault resulting in ACC claim | 6 | 5 | 9 | 10 | <5 |

Notes: Table 2 source. Extract from ACC Data.

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.

- Section 18(f) – the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.
- Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased.

2. Could I also please have a copy of any reports or documents relating to assaults and violence towards staff published in 2020 or 2021.

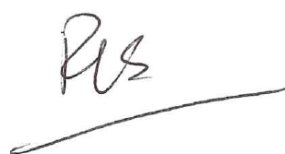
No documents or reports have been published to the organisation in 2022 and 2021 on assaults and violence to staff. The Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB are currently working through a Workplace Violence Critical Risk programme. It is expected that a revised Workplace Violence Policy and Critical Risk Standard will be published in 2022. The Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB are also working with the other DHBs and partners on a national approach to workplace violence.

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 Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB