

27/03/2020



Hannah Martin

Via email: Hannah.martin@stuff.co.nz

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Dear Hannah

Official Information Act Request – Reported assaults/harassment

On 27 February 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

I am requesting the following information under the Official Information Act:

- The number of sexual harassment reports made by **person(s) employed** (staff) by the DHB in the calendar years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, broken down by whether they involved either patients or other staff.
- The number of sexual harassment reports made by **patients** to the DHB in the calendar years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, broken down by involving either other patients or staff.
- The number of complaints made to the DHB by **staff members** for each of the following:
 - Physical assault/abuse
 - Verbal assault/abuse
 - Psychological assault/abuse
 - Racial assault/abuse;Made to the DHB in the calendar years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, broken down by whether they were perpetrated by either patients or staff.
- The number of complaints made to the DHB by **patients** for each of the following:
 - Physical assault/abuse
 - Verbal assault/abuse
 - Psychological assault/abuse
 - Racial assault/abuse;Made to the DHB in the calendar years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, broken down by whether they were perpetrated by either patients or staff.

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

- **The number of sexual harassment reports made by person(s) employed (staff) by the DHB in the calendar years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, broken down by whether they involved either patients or other staff.**

The table below provides details regarding sexual harassment allegations for the requested periods.

Sexual Harassment		
Year	Allegations made by staff against patients	Allegations made by staff against staff
2019	6	0
2018	2	0
2017	2	0

Chief Executive | Phone 06 348 3140 | Fax 06 345 9390

- **The number of sexual harassment reports made by patients to the DHB in the calendar years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, broken down by involving either other patients or staff.**

Nil

- **The number of complaints made to the DHB by staff members for each of the following:**
 - **Physical assault/abuse**
 - **Verbal assault/abuse**
 - **Psychological assault/abuse**
 - **Racial assault/abuse**

Made to the DHB in the calendar years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, broken down by whether they were perpetrated by either patients or staff.

Reported Assault / Abuse incidents made by staff against staff

Whanganui DHB received **no** complaints from staff members against other staff members regarding physical, verbal, psychological or racial assault or abuse for the periods requested.

Reported Assault / Abuse incidents by patients and visitors against staff

Year	Physical and/or Verbal assault/abuse	Psychological assault/abuse	Racial assault/abuse
2019	107	0	0
2018	67	0	0
2017	50	0	0

Note:

- The information depicted is taken from the incident reporting system only and may not be a true reflection of all incidents as not all incidents/assaults are reported.
- The WDHB encourages staff to report incidents and near misses.
- Various reasons, including different levels of tolerance regarding verbal abuse impact on reporting.
- Reported incidents are categorised by the reporter. Physical assault/abuse include in most instances also a verbal component. A combined response of physical and verbal assault and abuse reported incidents are provided.

Whanganui DHB contracts security staff for additional support during evening shifts. The table below provides details of security reports regarding physical and verbal assault/abuse by patients and visitors towards security staff.

Year	Physical assault/abuse	Verbal assault/abuse
2019	42	80
2018	50	65
2017	31	64

- **The number of complaints made to the DHB by patients for each of the following:**
 - **Physical assault/abuse**
 - **Verbal assault/abuse**
 - **Psychological assault/abuse**
 - **Racial assault/abuse**

Made to the DHB in the calendar years of 2019, 2018 and 2017, broken down by whether they were perpetrated by either patients or staff.

There were no cases of abuse perpetrated by staff.

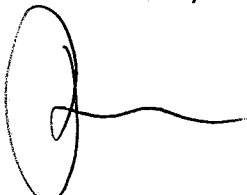
There were no substantiated cases of physical assault.

There was one complaint of physical assault by a patient and another patient in each of 2017 and 2018. There were none in 2019.

There were no complaints of verbal assault, psychological assault or racial assault.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left and a long, horizontal, wavy line extending to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive