



10/12/2020



By way of email only: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act request: Assaults

Further to your letter dated 3 November 2020 made under the Official Information Act 1982.

Specifically, you requested:

1. *How many assaults on Waikato DHB staffers were reported in each of the following years: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020?*

Year	Total
2016	170
2017	181
2018	274
2019	328
2020	275

2. *A breakdown for each of those years by staff type (eg doctor, nurse, allied health)*

By who reported the incident	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Administrative Clerical & Secretarial				9	6
Administrative, Clerical & Secretarial Staff - Non-clinical	8				
Enrolled Nurses		6		23	11
Health Service Assistants	14	19	53	33	42
Internal Bureau Nurses	9	11	13	21	21
Occupational Therapists					
Phlebotomists					
Registered Nurses	50	80	137	187	149
Senior Nurses	24	43	39	30	31
Social Workers					
Specialist Medical Officer					
Supervisors & Professional Staff	19			9	7
Technicians					



These numbers represent the staff type who recorded an incident in the Waikato DHB Incident management system (Datix). To protect the privacy of staff, we have not included any incidents fewer than 5.

3. A breakdown for each of those years by who inflicted the assault (eg patient, visitor, fellow staff member)

	Patient	Visitor	Colleague
2016	162		
2017	178		
2018	264	8	
2019	321	6	
2020	283	8	

The table above represents who inflicted an assault in the years 2016 – 2020 using the search criteria Inappropriate/Aggressive Behaviour as per our Incident Management System - Datix

4. Six examples of what the assaults were (eg spitting, hitting...)

Six examples of harm noted in the free text section of a Datix Incident report include the words kicked, scratched, bitten, punched, pushed, spitting.

5. For each of 2019 and 2020, a breakdown of assault numbers by area of work (eg mental health, ED....)

Department	2019	2020
Facilities & Business	7	
Mental Health & Addiction	175	115
Oncology & Regional Service	24	6
Older Persons Service	51	75
Rehab & Allied Health	11	
Emergency & Ambulance	17	
Surgical & Critical Care	46	44

These numbers represent incidents reported by area through the Waikato DHB Incident Management system (Datix) protect the privacy of staff we have not included any incidents fewer than 5.

6. For each of 2019 and 2020, how many of those assaulted required time off work?

Year	Total
2019	14
2020	11

7. How many of those people (in 2019 and in 2020) required more than a week off work?

Year	Total
2019	10
2020	9

8. Were there any cases where an assaulted staff member did not return to work after an assault? If so, how many, and in which years?

Waikato DHB is withholding this information under sections 18(a) and 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act because the total number of this category is <5 and we wish to protect the privacy of our staff.

9. For each of 2019 and 2020, how many of the assaults resulted in criminal charges being laid?

As previously advised this question was transferred to NZ Police.

10. For each of 2019 and 2020, how many of the assaults resulted in a WorkSafe investigation?

There were no incidents that resulted in a Worksafe investigation.

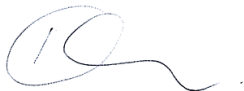
Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review the decision to withhold information. The Ombudsman's postal address is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
P O Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

I trust this answers your query.

Yours sincerely



Kate Coley
Executive Director Organisational Support
Waikato District Health Board