

19 May 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Via Email: [REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 27 February 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 26 March 2020 and notice of decision 28 April 2020, where you seek information on reported assaults /harassment.

NMH Disclaimer

The categories requested do not exactly match our reporting categories, and the data provided reflects the best match to that which we are able to provide

- 1. 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.*

TABLE 1: REPORTS STAFF TO STAFF

	2017	2018	2019
Sexual Abuse/Assault	0	<5*	0

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons. In the circumstances, the withholding of that information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

Due to low numbers in some years there is a risk of individual identifiability; the exact numbers are withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons, and as such NMH declines to release the information under Section 9(2)(a) 'to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons'.

- 2. 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.*

DHB response

Our Incident Management system does not report the information requested as sexual harassment reports "made by patients" cannot be extracted as a specific category.

- 3. The number of complaints made to the DHB by staff members for each of the following:*
 - a. Physical assault/abuse*
 - b. Verbal assault/abuse*
 - c. Psychological assault/abuse*
 - d. Racial assault/abuse;*

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

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.

TABLE 2: REPORTS STAFF TO STAFF

	2017	2018	2019
Verbal Abuse/Assault	12	13	13
Physical Abuse/Assault	<5*	<5*	<5*
Psychological Abuse / Assault	<5*	<5*	<5*
Racial Abuse/Assault	0	<5*	<5*

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons. In the circumstances, the withholding of that information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

Due to low numbers in some years there is a risk of individual identifiability; the exact numbers are withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons, and as such NMH declines to release the information under Section 9(2)(a) 'to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons'.

4. The number of complaints made to the DHB by patients for each of the following:

a. Physical assault/abuse

b. Verbal assault/abuse

c. Psychological assault/abuse

d. 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.

DHB response

Our Incident Management system categories do not match those requested and, as such, we are unable to extract and collate the data using these terms.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIRequest@nmdhb.govt.nz. I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-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. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Bramley
Chief Executive

cc: Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz