

18 September 2020

[REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information, as transferred from the Ministry of Health and received 21 July 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 18 August 2020 and notice of decision 16 September 2020, where you seek the following information:

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*

NMH response: The information requested is not available in a form that identifies the level of detail requested. Our *Safety1st* Incident Management System shows 'incidents' rather than 'complaints', and reporting categories are not set up to capture all investigative reports or outcomes.

As such, NMH refuses/withholds parts a, b, c and d under sections 18(f) *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'* and 9(2)(a) *'withholding is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons'*.

Criminal prosecution information is not collected by the DHB, as such, NMH refuses parts e and f under section 18(f) as *'the information requested is not held'*.

We are, however, able to extract the number of reported Physical assaults reported by NMH Mental Health employees over the last three financial years (1 July – 30 June), as outlined in Table One.

TABLE ONE:

FY	Count
2017-2018	8
2018-2019	16
2019-2020	58

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

2. The number of complaints made by health workers who have alleged they were assaulted while working at the Emergency Departments 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**

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Criminal prosecution information is not collected by the DHB, as such, NMH refuses parts e and f under section 18(f) as *'the information requested is not held'*.

We are, however, able to extract the number of reported Physical assaults reported by NMH Emergency Department employees over the last three financial years, as outlined in Table Two.

TABLE TWO:

FY	Count
2017-2018	6
2018-2019	4
2019-2020	6

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...

- age, sex, job title of the complainant**
- allegation details and date**
- all investigations outcomes (including but not restricted to all investigation reports)**
- if not investigated why not**
- was there any criminal prosecution and details of the outcome**
- if there was no criminal prosecution why not"**

NMH response: There were no reports of physical assaults reported by Maternity employees over the last three financial years.

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 OIArequest@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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Sinclair', written in a cursive style.

Eric Sinclair
Acting Chief Executive