

7 April 2022



Revised response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 7 December 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by your clarification 9 December 2021 regarding a duplication of Question 8, the necessary extension of time 25 January 2022 and notice of decision 16 February 2022, where you seek the following information:

Following the request of our members, NZNO has developed a project to address the unfortunate rise in aggression and violence against nurses (AVAN). An internal survey of our membership in 2019 clearly indicated that, as comparable with other nations around the world, nurses, midwives and healthcare workers are experiencing increasing levels of occupational violence and aggression (particularly in Emergency, Aged Care and Mental Health). NZNO and the AVAN working group have a five-year plan to bring light to this issue and implement multiple strategies to empower nurses, midwives and healthcare workers to manage their safety in the workplace. We would appreciate your help in the illumination of this issue and therefore ask for your assistance in providing the following information: Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA).

- 1. The number of incidents related to nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants being abused, harassed or physically assaulted / attacked at their workplace since 1 Jan 2017 to date, broken down by location and calendar year.*

NMH response:

Please see Table One for nurses, midwives, and healthcare assistants for Calendar Years 2017 to 2021, by hospital.

TABLE ONE

Calendar Year	Alexandra Hospital	Nelson Hospital	Wairau Hospital	Other Recorded
2017	29	98	18	< 5*
2018	123	133	14	7
2019	113	118	12	< 5*
2020	43	179	15	8
2021	42	124	30	9

*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.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

2. Brief description of the incidents and what the incidents related to e.g. verbal abuse, physical assault, sexual assault, physical threat or otherwise

NMH response:

Please see Table Two for nurses, midwives, and healthcare assistants, by incident type.

TABLE TWO

Assault/Threat Category	Subcategory	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Assault	Physical	91	195	183	139	122
	Sexual	0	< 5*	0	< 5*	< 5*
	Verbal	34	54	34	52	49
Threat	Physical	20	24	24	32	24
	Sexual	0	0	< 5*	< 5*	< 5*
	Verbal	< 5*	< 5*	< 5*	19	8

*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.

3. Where did the incidents happen? e.g. the emergency department, mental health/addictions, obstetrics?

NMH response:

Please see Table Three for nurses, midwives, and healthcare assistants, by service.

TABLE THREE

Calendar Year	Clinical Services	Emergency Department	Mental Health
2017	32	23	92
2018	33	21	223
2019	24	17	206
2020	47	15	183
2021	52	22	131

4. How many incidents were notified to WorkSafe?

Revised NMH response:

Nil incidents related to nurses, midwives or healthcare assistants were notified to Worksafe since 1 January 2017.

5. How many incidents required police interventions e.g. Police report, statements from DHB employees?

NMH response:

Incidents requiring police interventions are not recorded by NMH. As such, we decline this aspect of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as *'the information requested is not held'* by us.

6. How many incidents required an ACC claim?

NMH response:

This information is not held in a form specific to nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants that is readily retrievable from our Incident Management System and, under section 18(f), *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*. It would take a significant amount of time and resources to extract and manually review individual employee files to collate this information.

7. How many incidents resulted in working days lost? And if so, how many?

NMH response:

This information is not held in a form specific to nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants that is readily retrievable from our Incident Management System and, under section 18(f), *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*. It would take a significant amount of time and resources to extract and manually review individual employee files to collate this information.

8. How many 'code orange' events that occurred? Brief description of the events.

NMH response:

NMH does not use 'code orange' reporting. As such, we decline this aspect of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as *'the information requested is not held'* by us.

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 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



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive