

30 May 2022

Response to a request for official information

Thank you for your request for official information received 6 April 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by clarification 7 April 2022 and the necessary extension of time 9 May 2022, where you seek following information.

1. *“The number of assaults on staff for years 2018,2019,2020,2021,2022 (to current date)*
 - *broken down into minor, moderate, and serious assaults*
 - *broken down into physical and sexual assaults*
 - *for the assaults deemed moderate and serious, could I please have further details about what role the staff member holds (e.g. nurse, orderly etc), their gender, where they work, if the assault involved a weapon (please specify what the weapon was), what injuries were sustained, and what action was taken as a result (e.g. charges laid, etc).”*

NMH response:

Please see Tables One and Two below for Calendar Years from 1 January 2018 to 29 April 2022, broken down by event type and severity – Mild / Moderate / Serious.

TABLE ONE

| | 2018 | | | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | 2021 | | | Jan- Apr 2022 | | |
|-----------------|------|----------|---------|------|----------|---------|------|----------|---------|------|----------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|
| Row Labels | Mild | Moderate | Serious | Mild | Moderate | Serious | Mild | Moderate | Serious | Mild | Moderate | Serious | Mild | Moderate | Serious |
| Physical | 357 | 0 | 0 | 293 | 1 | 0 | 265 | 0 | 1 | 249 | 1 | 0 | 83 | 2 | 0 |
| Sexual | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Verbal | 113 | 0 | 1 | 107 | 0 | 0 | 144 | 0 | 0 | 151 | 0 | 0 | 103 | 1 | 0 |

TABLE TWO

| 2018-Apr 2022 | | | |
|-----------------|------|----------|---------|
| Row Labels | Mild | Moderate | Serious |
| Physical | 1220 | 4 | 1 |
| Sexual | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| Verbal | 593 | 1 | 1 |

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

NMH finds risk of individual identifiability in disclosure of personal details specific to an individual employee involved in a moderate or serious event and, as such, this requires the protection of section 9(2)(a) *'to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons'*. In the circumstances, the withholding of that information is not outweighed by other considerations which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available (section 9(1)).

2. "a copy of any reports or documents relating to assaults and violence towards staff published in 2020 or 2021."

NMH response: This information is not held in a form that is readily retrievable from our Information Systems 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 files to collate the information.

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



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive