

25 January 2023

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ000007561

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 24 November 2022, clarified on 6 December 2022, for information relating to the Mental Health and Addictions workforce. You specifically requested information for:

“I am making a request under the Official Information Act for the Counties Manukau, Waitematā and Te Toka Tumai Auckland districts.

- 1) The number of assaults by a patient on Mental Health Nurses and Healthcare/psychiatric assistants. (Where relevant please supply data for regarding regional and supra-regional services)*
- 2) The number of disciplinary investigations into Mental Health Nurses and Healthcare/psychiatric assistants following physical contact with a patient and whether the disciplinary investigation was upheld (I do not want to know the specific outcome, just the number that were upheld and the number that were dismissed).”*

We are aware on 20 December 2022, Te Whatu Ora Waitemata responded to your request separately. Please see outlined below responses from the remaining Te Whatu Ora districts.

Response from Te Toka Tumai Auckland

“The number of assaults by a patient on Mental Health Nurses and Healthcare/psychiatric assistants. (Where relevant please supply data for regarding regional and supra-regional services)”

The following data is for the 12 months up to 27 November 2022 and includes the data for regional and supra-regional services hosted by Te Toka Tumai Auckland. Please note that some of our data does not specify whether the person assaulted was a nurse or a healthcare/psychiatric assistant. This information is included in the data that we have provided to you.

There were 197 incidents where an assault was recorded. The majority of these were in an inpatient unit. Five incidents were recorded as occurring in the community. Of the 197 assaults:

- 54 of these were verbal, or a physical threat but no contact.
- 126 or 64% had the result of “No injury, harm or loss”.
- A further 32 of the assaults (16%) required no treatment or first aid.
- Eight (4%) resulted in Lost Time Injury

“The number of disciplinary investigations into Mental Health Nurses and Healthcare/psychiatric assistants following physical contact with a patient and whether the disciplinary investigation was upheld (I do not want to know the specific outcome, just the number that were upheld and the number that were dismissed).”

There were less than five investigations, and these investigations were upheld. None were dismissed. Releasing information in regard to the exact number may result in staff identification. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Response from Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau

“The number of assaults by a patient on Mental Health Nurses and Healthcare/psychiatric assistants. (Where relevant please supply data for regarding regional and supra-regional services)”

Between the dates requested, 24th November 2021 and 24th November 2022 there have been 20 assaults on mental health staff

“The number of disciplinary investigations into Mental Health Nurses and Healthcare/psychiatric assistants following physical contact with a patient and whether the disciplinary investigation was upheld (I do not want to know the specific outcome, just the number that were upheld and the number that were dismissed).”

Less than five staff have been under investigation. Information in regard to the exact number are withheld as releasing it may make the staff involved identifiable pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

How to get in contact

I trust this information satisfies your request.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzoia@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Sasha Wood

Sasha Wood
**Interim Lead OIA & Proactive Release
Government, Partnership and Risk**