



25 January 2022

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 dated 7 December 2021. You have requested the following information:

1. *The number of incidents related to nurses, midwives and health care assistants being abused, harassed or physically assaulted/ attacked at their workplace since 1 Jan 2017 to date, broken down by location and calendar year.*
2. *Brief description of the incidents and what the incidents related to e.g. verbal abuse, physical assault, sexual assault, physical threat or otherwise*
3. *How many 'code orange'* events that occurred? Brief description of the events*
4. *Where did the incidents happen? e.g. the emergency department, mental health/addictions, obstetrics?*
5. *How many incidents were notified to WorkSafe?*
6. *How many incidents required police interventions e.g. Police report, statements from DHB employees?*
7. *How many incidents required an ACC claim?*
8. *How many incidents resulted in working days lost? And if so, how many?*

Questions 1, 2 and 4

This information has been added to the spreadsheet attached. Please note for question 2 we have only been able to answer "what the incidents related to e.g. verbal abuse physical assault..." and have not been able to provide "descriptions of the incidents" due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to manually collate this information by reviewing individual files. This part of your request is refused relying on section 18(f) of the OIA because it requires substantial collation and research. The information you have asked for is not easily retrievable from our systems and it would not be appropriate to take staff away from their work and prejudice the DHB's ability to provide core healthcare services whilst all of the DHB's resources are currently dedicated to the Waikato DHB's COVID-19 Omicron response.

Questions 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Similarly as above regarding question 2, due to the substantial amount of resource that would be required to manually research and collate the information you requested, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would help, however we have concluded that it would not because the information you have asked for is not easily retrievable from our systems. As mentioned above it would not be appropriate to take staff away from their work and prejudice the DHB's ability to provide

core healthcare services whilst all of the DHB's resources are currently dedicated to the Waikato DHB's COVID-19 Omicron response.

While we cannot meet all of your request, we hope the information provided assists your research.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically-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.

Yours sincerely



Kent Holdsworth
Acting Executive Director – Hospital and Community Services
Waikato District Health Board

DHB : Waikato DHB

N.B. It is difficult to get accurate figures based on staff roles, so there is likely to be some incidents included that are against staff who are not nursing.

Nursing Field / Location	Physical threats	Physical assaults	Verbal abuse incidents	Sexual abuse incidents	Other (not defined) aggressive or violent incident	Total number of reported incidents	Number of incidents reported to ACC	Number of incidents notified to WorkSafe	Number of incidents requiring police intervention	Number of working days lost due to incidents	Number of Code orange (or comparable) events + brief description, response and outcome
Emergency & Trauma	7	13	22	0	25	67					
Assessment and Rehabilitation	3	6	6	0	6	21					
Community Mental Health	7	2	5	0	1	15					
Community Nursing Services	0	0	0	0	1	1					
Child Health including Neonatology	0	1	0	0	2	3					
District nursing	1	0	1	0	2	4					
Intensive or Coronary Care/ HDU	0	8	3	0	6	17					
Maternity	0	0	1	0	1	2					
Mental Health / Addictions	29	110	33	6	78	256					
Medical	4	14	7	1	36	62					
Obstetrics	0	0	0	0	1	1					
Outpatients Department	0	0	1	0	0	1					
Perioperative Care/ Theatre	0	4	2	0	5	11					
Surgical	1	18	7	0	11	37					
Other	0	5	27	0	18	50					
<i>Totals per annum</i>	52	181	115	7	193	548					

2017 - (January 1 - December 31)

See details sheet for incident descriptions

2018 - (January 1 - December 31)

Nursing Field / Location	Physical threats	Physical assaults	Verbal abuse incidents	Sexual abuse incidents	Other (not defined) aggressive or violent incident	Total number of reported incidents	Number of incidents reported to ACC	Number of incidents notified to WorkSafe	Number of incidents requiring police intervention	Number of working days lost due to incidents	Number of Code orange (or comparable) events + Brief description
Emergency & Trauma	8	28	50	0	15	101					
Assessment and Rehabilitation	6	17	8	0	8	39					
Community Mental Health	0	3	0	0	1	4					
Community Nursing Services	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Child Health including Neonatology	0	2	0	0	1	3					
District nursing	0	0	6	1	2	9					
Intensive or Coronary Care/ HDU	0	7	7	0	5	19					
Maternity	0	0	2	0	0	2					
Mental Health / Addictions	81	176	39	12	51	359					
Medical	1	20	17	1	18	57					
Obstetrics	0	0	4	0	1	5					
Outpatients Department	1	0	1	0	0	2					
Perioperative Care/ Theatre	0	7	4	0	1	12					
Surgical	2	10	15	0	8	35					
Other	9	4	33	1	12	59					
<i>Totals per annum</i>	108	274	186	15	123	706					

See details sheet for incident descriptions

2019 - (January 1 - December 31)

Nursing Field / Location	Physical threats	Physical assaults	Verbal abuse incidents	Sexual abuse incidents	Other (not defined) aggressive or violent incident	Total number of reported incidents	Number of incidents reported to ACC	Number of incidents notified to WorkSafe	Number of incidents requiring police intervention	Number of working days lost due to incidents	Number of Code orange (or comparable) events + brief description
Emergency & Trauma	15	23	121	1	10	170					
Assessment and Rehabilitation	9	31	24	4	4	72					
Community Mental Health	2	2	2	0	0	6					
Community Nursing Services	0	0	2	0	0	2					
Child Health including Neonatology	0	1	2	0	2	5					
District nursing	2	1	1	0	1	5					
Intensive or Coronary Care/ HDU	3	9	18	0	5	35					
Maternity	1	0	2	0	1	4					
Mental Health / Addictions	66	173	33	9	19	300					
Medical	8	33	36	4	8	89					
Obstetrics	0	0	1	0	1	2					
Outpatients Department	0	0	1	0	0	1					
Perioperative Care/ Theatre	0	6	7	0	8	21					
Surgical	6	31	34	1	11	83					
Other	9	18	45	2	17	91					
<i>Totals per annum</i>	121	328	329	21	87	886					

See details sheet for incident descriptions

2020 - (January 1 - December 31)

Nursing Field / Location	Physical threats	Physical assaults	Verbal abuse incidents	Sexual abuse incidents	Other (not defined) aggressive or violent incident	Total number of reported incidents	Number of incidents reported to ACC	Number of incidents notified to WorkSafe	Number of incidents requiring police intervention	Number of working days lost due to incidents	Number of Code orange (or comparable) events + brief description
Emergency & Trauma	18	34	87	2	14	155					
Assessment and Rehabilitation	12	34	32	9	4	91					
Community Mental Health	9	6	3	0	0	18					
Community Nursing Services	0	0	0	1	0	1					
Child Health including Neonatology	4	7	1	0	1	13					
District nursing	0	1	4	0	0	5					
Intensive or Coronary Care/ HDU	1	15	11	0	8	35					
Maternity	0	0	3	0	3	6					
Mental Health / Addictions	86	159	35	1	13	294					
Medical	7	22	28	1	6	64					
Obstetrics	0	0	1	0	0	1					
Outpatients Department	0	0	1	0	0	1					
Perioperative Care/ Theatre	0	5	5	0	8	18					
Surgical	5	32	22	2	2	63					
Other	8	11	48	1	17	85					
<i>Totals per annum</i>	150	326	281	17	76	850					

See details sheet for incident descriptions

2021 - (January 1 - December 31)

Nursing Field / Location	Physical threats	Physical assaults	Verbal abuse incidents	Sexual abuse incidents	Other (not defined) aggressive or violent incident	Total number of reported incidents	Number of incidents reported to ACC	Number of incidents notified to WorkSafe	Number of incidents requiring police intervention	Number of working days lost due to incidents	Number of Code orange (or comparable) events + brief description
Emergency & Trauma	7	17	18	2	4	48					
Assessment and Rehabilitation	8	23	15	8	6	60					
Community Mental Health	7	8	2	2	3	22					
Community Nursing Services	1	0	1	0	0	2					
Child Health including Neonatology	0	0	3	0	1	4					
District nursing	0	0	4	0	2	6					
Intensive or Coronary Care/ HDU	2	9	10	1	4	26					
Maternity	0	1	6	0	0	7					
Mental Health / Addictions	84	168	24	11	17	304					
Medical	2	14	25	3	5	49					
Obstetrics	2	0	5	0	4	11					
Outpatients Department	0	0	0	1	0	1					
Perioperative Care/ Theatre	0	4	3	0	3	10					
Surgical	4	39	16	3	7	69					
Other	3	9	49	0	17	78					
<i>Totals per annum</i>	120	292	181	31	73	697					

See details sheet for incident descriptions