



14 May 2019

Siobhan Lehnhard

By way of email only: fyi-request-10163-56f14bb9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Siobhan

Official Information Act Request: Assaults against nursing staff from 2013-2018

Further to your email dated 17 April 2019 made under the Official Information Act 1982.

Specifically, you requested;

Waikato DHB to supply the total number of assaults against nurses by members of the public from 2013-2018, broken down by each year.

From 1 Jan 2016 this information has come from Datix, the electronic incident management reporting system that we use, and all incidents are classified as actual assaults against a staff member.

The 2014 and 2015 figures are from our previous access database. Incidents were classified as either "Behaviour, Patient Physical Assault" or "Behaviour, Staff Physical Assault" as it is unclear if the patient or staff is the victim or the perpetrator in each individual incident and many assaults against staff are included in the "Behaviour, Patient Physical Assault" category.

In both cases we are unable to determine how many of those were specifically nurses because the DHB does not capture the information in this way. We can only provide the total numbers of assaults.

The total number of assaults broken down by year is:

2014 - 404
2015 - 335
2016 - 168
2017 - 181
2018 - 274

I trust this answers your query.

Kind Regards

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

Gil Sewell
Executive Director HR and Organisational Development
Waikato District Health Board

