

2 August 2017

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003  
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Karyn Black

via email: [fyi-request-6133-6bffa56a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6133-6bffa56a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Miss Black

### **Official Information Act Request – Mental health security cameras**

On 5 July 2017 under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board:

1. Does "Te Awhina" mental health inpatient unit currently have security cameras operating with the hospital area? I am defining hospital area as including: the reception area, entrance and exit points, main patient leisure areas, occupational therapy spaces, seclusion rooms, patient corridors, intensive care or high dependency areas, private/patient outside garden spaces. This excludes any cameras operating outside of the inpatient unit treatment areas such as car parks, public hospital grounds.

If the inpatient unit does have cameras operating may you please provide the following information:

- 2.a) When were the cameras installed?
- 2.b) Where are the cameras are located?
- 2.c) How many cameras are operating?
- 2.d) "Seclusion, Restraint, and Assault" reporting data for one year prior to the installation of any security cameras. For example, if cameras were installed June 2010, I request Seclusion, Restraint and Assault reporting data for the period from June 2009 – June 2010.
- 2.e) "Seclusion, Restraint, and Assault" reporting data for one year after the installation of any security cameras. For example, if cameras were installed June 2010, I request Seclusion, Restraint and Assault reporting data for the period from June 2010 – June 2011.

*Whanganui District Health Boards response:*

#### **2a. When were the cameras installed?**

The cameras were installed over a period from July 2012 till June 2013 when the building was being refurbished. One by one they became operational during that time.

**2b. Where are the cameras are located?**

- Three lounge areas
- Reception entrance
- Reception foyer
- Visitor foyer
- Three courtyards
- Staff entrance to carpark.

We made a deliberate decision not to have security cameras in seclusion and we also do not have cameras in our Occupational Therapy area.

**2c. How many cameras are operating?**

We have a total of 10 cameras operating.

**2.d) "Seclusion, Restraint, and Assault" reporting data for one year prior to the installation of any security cameras. For example, if cameras were installed June 2010, I request Seclusion, Restraint and Assault reporting data for the period from June 2009 – June 2010.**

and

**2.e) "Seclusion, Restraint, and Assault" reporting data for one year after the installation of any security cameras. For example, if cameras were installed June 2010, I request Seclusion, Restraint and Assault reporting data for the period from June 2010 – June 2011.**

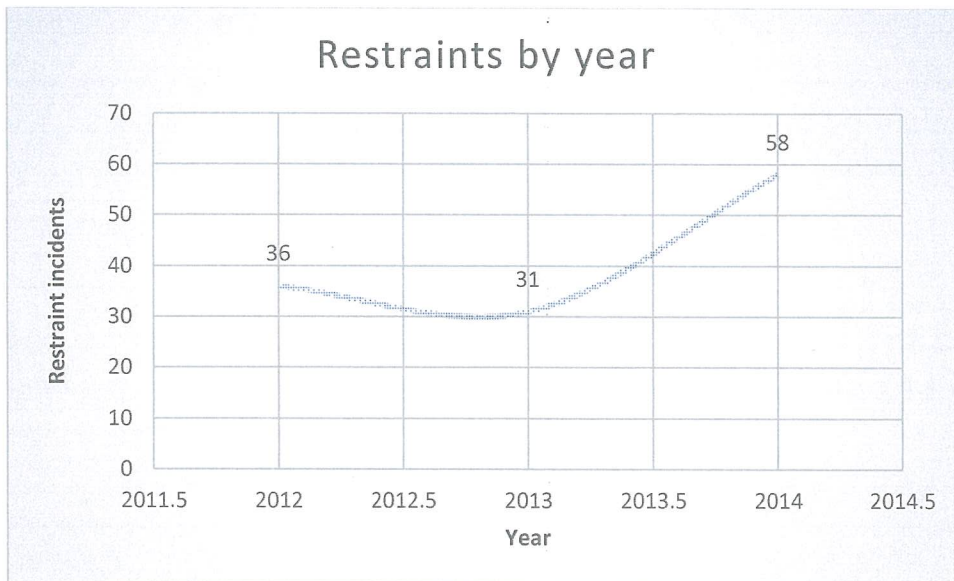
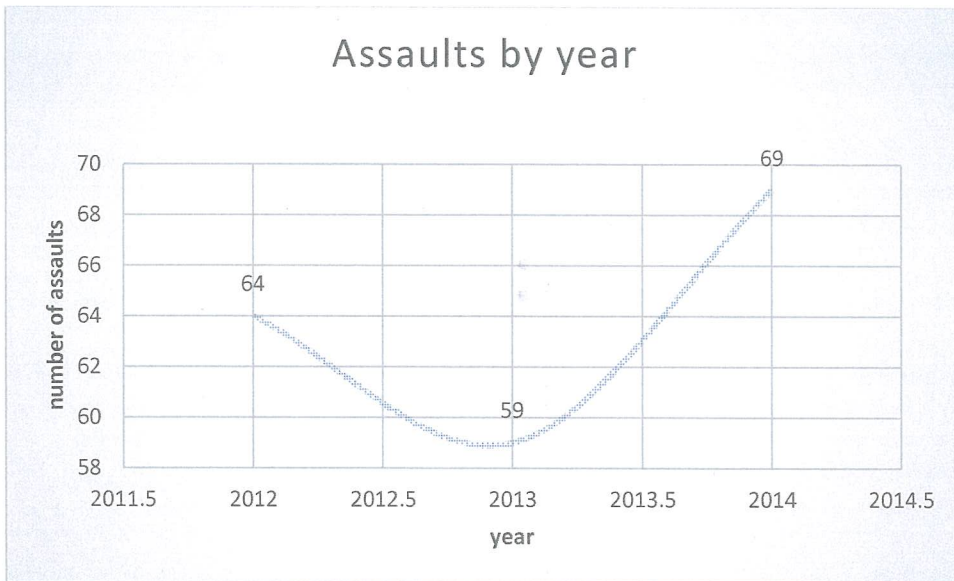
The following graphs depict the number of assaults on staff, the number of hours clients were secluded for and the number of restraint incidents that occurred in the 18 month periods before and after the full installation of the CCTV.

It should be noted that the cameras were introduced over a period of time, i.e. not all at once.

The installation began in July 2012 and was complete by June 2013.

It should also be noted that the presence of synthetic cannabis and other legal psychoactive substances had a significant impact on restraint, seclusion and assault numbers during this period.





I trust this information will satisfy your request, if you have any further queries, please contact our OIA co-ordinator in the first instance: [shonelle.fergusson@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:shonelle.fergusson@wdhb.org.nz)

Please attribute this information to Mr Jeff Hammond, Director of Nursing (mental health/DAMHS).

Yours sincerely

Julie Patterson  
**Chief Executive Officer**