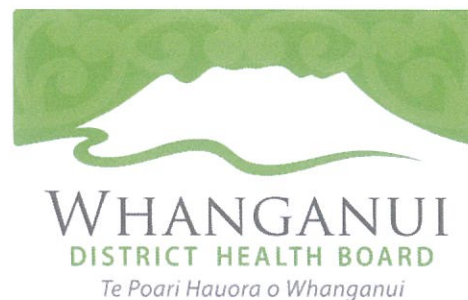


29 January 2020

Ms Kirsty Johnston
NZME



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

Via email: kirsty.johnston@nzme.co.nz

Dear Ms Johnston

Official Information Act Request – Sexual Harassment

On 10 January 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

This is an official information act request for data about sexual harassment complaints received by your institution, and also for information about the result of those complaints.

The information will be used by the New Zealand Herald as part of a story about the way sexual harassment complaints are dealt with by government agencies and public institutions.

Can you please provide the below information, ideally in table format, for each of the past five years 2015-2019:

- the number of sexual harassment allegations received
- the number of sexual harassment allegations which were laid as formal complaints
- the number of internal investigations into sexual harassment allegations
- the number of external investigations into sexual harassment allegations (in some cases, a single allegation will have both internal and external investigation - it might be helpful to note somewhere if this was the case to avoid double counting)
- the number of sexual harassment allegations which were upheld / substantiated / proved / found likely to be true
- the number of mediated settlements resulting from sexual harassment allegations
- the number of other types of settlements or resolutions resulting from sexual harassment allegations
- the amount of financial compensation included in those settlements
- whether those settlements included a confidentiality agreement or non-disclosure agreement (note: the standard MBIE mediation under section 149 of the Employment Relations Act includes a confidentiality clause, please state if the settlement was the MBIE settlement)

Whanganui District Health Board's response:

This is an official information act request for data about sexual harassment complaints received by your institution, and also for information about the result of those complaints.

The information will be used by the New Zealand Herald as part of a story about the way sexual harassment complaints are dealt with by government agencies and public institutions.

Can you please provide the below information, ideally in table format, for each of the past five years 2015-2019:

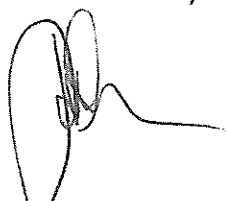
- **the number of sexual harassment allegations received**
- **the number of sexual harassment allegations which were laid as formal complaints**
- **the number of internal investigations into sexual harassment allegations**
- **the number of external investigations into sexual harassment allegations (in some cases, a single allegation will have both internal and external investigation - it might be helpful to note somewhere if this was the case to avoid double counting)**
- **the number of sexual harassment allegations which were upheld / substantiated / proved / found likely to be true**
- **the number of mediated settlements resulting from sexual harassment allegations**
- **the number of other types of settlements or resolutions resulting from sexual harassment allegations**
- **the amount of financial compensation included in those settlements**
- **whether those settlements included a confidentiality agreement or non-disclosure agreement (note: the standard MBIE mediation under section 149 of the Employment Relations Act includes a confidentiality clause, please state if the settlement was the MBIE settlement)**

Whanganui DHB received no sexual harassment allegations against DHB staff for the period requested.

Sexual harassment and assault allegations **against patients** are reported to the New Zealand Police for action, investigation and potential criminal charges. The WDHB supports and encourages staff to formally report these to the police and press charges of assault against the patient. The outcome of these investigations/charges are not necessary known to the WDHB.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Deanne Holden at deanne.holden@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson
Chief Executive