



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Te Poari Hauora o Whanganui

23 May 2019

Martha Kane Savage
VUW

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

Via email: martha.savage@vuw.ac.nz

Dear Martha

Official Information Act Request – Use of physical and mechanical restraints in mental health services from 2008-2018

On 5 May 2019 under Section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

Can you please provide data about the use of physical/mechanical restraints in your District Health Board for mental health services and identify the service associated with this data? By physical/mechanical restraints I mean using appliances such as straps, ties or handcuffs to immobilise patients.

In particular, can you provide minutes of meetings or other documents from 2008 through 2018 that provide trends of the use of physical/mechanical restraints, produced by or for your committee that has the duty of overseeing restraint use?

In addition, Can you provide information during the calendar year 2008 and during the calendar year 2018 on the use of physical/mechanical restraints in the mental health services of your DHB? This data should be kept in a Restraint Register or in a computer database.

This data for 2008 and 2018 should specify the type of restraint used (e.g., wrist strap, bed straps) and the length of time between start and finish of each individual mechanical/physical restraint. Obviously the presentation of this data should be anonymised for the protection of privacy.

Whanganui District Health Board's response:

Can you please provide data about the use of physical/mechanical restraints in your District Health Board for mental health services and identify the service associated with this data? By physical/mechanical restraints I mean using appliances such as straps, ties or handcuffs to immobilise patients.

The Whanganui District Health Board Mental Health team do not use physical/mechanical restraints and have not for many years.

In particular, can you provide minutes of meetings or other documents from 2008 through 2018 that provide trends of the use of physical/mechanical restraints, produced by or for your committee that has the duty of overseeing restraint use?

Nil minutes/documents to provide around restraint use as the Whanganui District Health Board Mental Health team do not use physical/mechanical restraints.

In addition, Can you provide information during the calendar year 2008 and during the calendar year 2018 on the use of physical/mechanical restraints in the mental health services of your DHB? This data should be kept in a Restraint Register or in a computer database.

As above.

This data for 2008 and 2018 should specify the type of restraint used (e.g., wrist strap, bed straps) and the length of time between start and finish of each individual mechanical/physical restraint. Obviously the presentation of this data should be anonymised for the protection of privacy.

As above.

Should you have any further queries, please contact, contact our acting OIA co-ordinator Maree Langford at Maree.Langford@wdhb.co.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive