

26 January 2021

Jack Boltar

**Via email:** Jack.Boltar@parliament.govt.nz



Dear Jack

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

**Official Information Act Request – OIA 13268 Incidents Involving Staff Members**

On 7 December 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

Date/numbers/figures of all incidents involving any DHB staff member (including contractors or causal workers) being harassed or, physically or verbally assaulted by a patient from any ward/area under the DHB's jurisdiction in the last three years to date (07/12/2017 – 07/12/2020).

**Whanganui District Health Boards response:**

This OIA response includes incidents recorded on the DHB incident recording systems, Riskman and CGov. We have used the following definitions:

**Verbal assault** - This includes language directed at staff such as sustained and personal abuse, threats, sexualised comments, and racial abuse

**Physical assault** – This includes physical attacks on staff, such as punching or kicking, biting, spitting, headbutting, strangulation, items being thrown, and weapons being used.

**Date/numbers/figures of all incidents involving any DHB staff member (including contractors or causal workers) being harassed or, physically or verbally assaulted by a patient from any ward/area under the DHB's jurisdiction in the last three years to date (07/12/2017 – 07/12/2020).**

**Simple table**

	<b>07/12/17 – 07/12/18</b>	<b>08/12/18 – 07/12/19</b>	<b>08/12/19 - 07/12/20</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Verbal assault</b>	135	160	111	<b>406</b>
<b>Physical assault</b>	83	155	83	<b>321</b>

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at [anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz)

Yours sincerely

Russell Simpson  
**Chief Executive**

Chief Executive | Phone 06 348 3140 | Fax 06 345 9390