

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165
carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz

26 September 2018

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE Official information request CDHB 9926

We refer to your email dated 22 August 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB following a media response on 17 August 2018 from our DHB stating: *“Within Canterbury DHB, from 2015 to 17 August 2018, 137 incidents were recorded which involved patients behaving in a sexually abusive manner”*. Specifically:

- **Are you able to provide some further clarification / details on the 137 incidents of patients behaving in a sexually abusive manner?**

Incidents are captured within our electronic reporting system Safety 1st. There may be multiple forms for single incidents as forms will be completed all individuals involved.

Incidents related to sexualised behaviour by patients are captured under one of four specific event types:

1. "Assault - Sexual"
2. "Assaulted - Sexually"
3. "Threatened - Sexually"
4. "Sexual Risk Behaviour -Comments"

Assault - Sexual and **Assaulted - Sexually** are generally used when any kind of physical contact has occurred. Where multiple patients are involved, the terms are used to determine between the alleged perpetrator (assault – sexual) and the alleged victim (assaulted – sexually)

Threatened – Sexually is generally used when verbal threats, statements or suggestions of a sexual nature are made.

Sexual Risk Behaviour – comments is generally used to describe sexualised activity that indicates the potential for risk.

These definitions are not explicit within the Safety 1st form and there is an element of subjectivity when staff select the most appropriate specific event type.

Following careful review of the data we have identified that 132 forms were submitted for events categorised as **Assault - Sexual** and **Assaulted – Sexually**. The 132 forms related to 112 separate events (i.e. some events generated more than one event form).

Further detail regarding these events is provided below:

- 69 of these events were assaults on staff which included five on students (*67 within Specialist Mental Health Services and two within Medical and Surgical services*).
- 37 events were assaults by a patient on another patient of which *34 occurred in Specialist Mental Health Services, two within Older Persons Health & Rehabilitation and one within Ashburton and Rural*.
- Six of the 112 events involved reports of sexual assault on inpatient consumers occurred while in the community and the alleged perpetrators were not patients under care.
- Of the 106 events that did occur within the Canterbury DHB, 11 indicated that harm had occurred. In all these cases this was described as psychological harm.

The 106 events reported range from inappropriate touching through to sexual contact* as identified below:

	Patient on staff	Patient on patient
Inappropriate touching / groping incl. limbs, head, buttocks, breasts, genitals	60	21
Attempts to kiss or kissing	5	5
Body contact (rubbing body or groin against)	4	2
Exposure		2
Sexual contact		7*

Note: *The sexual contact events between patients included both consensual and non-consensual activity.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely,



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support