



6 May 2019

Siobhan Lehnhard
Fyi-request-10115-e328f8b2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Siobhan

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about assaults against nursing staff.

Please supply the following information under the [Official Information Act (OIA) / Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)]:

The total number of assaults against nurses by members of the public from 2013-2018.

How many assaults against nurses by members of the public, broken down by each year from 2013-2018.

So (x) total for 2013-2018

(x) total for 2013

(x) total for 2014

(x) total for 2015

(x) total for 2016

(x) total for 2017

(x) total for 2018

The number of incidents is listed in the following table. We have interpreted "members of the public" to be anyone not employed by Northland DHB. The data therefore includes incidents involving patients and as well as other members of the public (eg visitors/support people etc).

	Physical assault	Verbal assault
2013	22	7
2014	18	12
2015	47	28
2016	47	39
2017	67	44
2018	62	54
Total	488	184

Northland DHB established a Workplace Violence Prevention Group with a specific aim 'for all people to feel safe within our workplaces'. The group's objectives were to encourage people to report incidents of violence and to develop a framework that services can adopt to identify and manage risk factors for workplace violence in healthcare.

A Workplace Violence Prevention Plan was developed. This led to a toolkit of resources being put together, regular staff surveys were undertaken to gather valuable feedback, training opportunities to educate staff on how to deal with critical incidents were considered and risk mitigation and controls put in place. The ultimate outcome from the plan was that we acknowledged that we needed a specific role to manage the ongoing issue of workplace violence. A new role was created - Workplace Violence Prevention Programme Manager – with the appointee commencing in January this year.

If you have any questions regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Chamberlain', written in a cursive style.

Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive