

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1,
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011
23 March 2017

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

Cody C

Email: fyi-request-5408-e927ac2a@requests.fyi.org.nz;

Dear Cody

Re: Official Information Act Request CDHB 9562

We refer to your email dated 20 February 2017 to Canterbury District Health Board, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act.

- **Number of suicides within CDHB mental healthcare facilities in last 5 years, by month, in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982.**

An outcome of suicide can only be made by the Coroner. Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the number of deaths suspected by the Specialist Mental Health Service (SMHS) to be self-inflicted, and where the Coroner has made a finding, those deaths confirmed by the Coroner to be suicide between calendar years 2012 – 2017 year to date.

As the numbers are very low we are declining to break the data down by month and year as requested under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act. i.e. *to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.* But, as you can see the number of possible suicides is one or two per annum.

Table one:

	Calendar years 2012 – 2017 year to date
Possible suicide of inpatient in a Canterbury DHB mental health facility	7
*Possible suicide of inpatient while on leave from a Canterbury DHB mental health facility.	4

Note: *The on-leave category has been included but this means that the deaths did not occur in the facility.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
General Manager,
Planning, Funding & Decision Support