

11th May 2022



Official Information Act Request for – Assaults on Patients

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 11th May 2022 by way of transfer from the Ministry of Health, you requested the following information:

- **“Can ministry of health please email me aggregated staff investigations of assaults on patients ie staff fired, investigated and resigning before being fired / criminal charges being laid / withdrawn by victim? Your request was clarified on 1 April 2022 for: All DHB records and records before DHBs set-up.”**

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

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In response to your request we can confirm that between 2017-present, one employee has been dismissed. We do not hold any more information relating to this e.g. criminal charges laid or withdrawn by the victim and we are unable to disclose any further information about this matter for privacy reasons under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, as withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of individuals.

To provide information prior to 2017 this would involve manually searching through individual personnel records. Due to the sensitivity of this information, it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review these individual records. We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request

would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to decline this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 due to substantial collation and research.

In relation to your request for information before DHB's were set up we reiterate what the Ministry of Health advised and suggest contacting Archives NZ for information predating the establishment of the DHBs.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Watson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Peter Watson
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health