



Lakes District Health Board
Corner Arawa and Ranolf Streets (Pukeroa Street)
Private Bag 3023, Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046, New Zealand

9 May 2022

Subject: Official Information Act request re: staff assaults

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act received by Lakes DHB on 6 April 2022. You have asked for:

- ***The number of assaults on staff for years 2018,2019,2020,2021,2022 (to current date)***

See below

- ***Could I please have this broken down into minor, moderate, and serious assaults***

See below.

- ***Could I please have this broken down into physical and sexual assaults***

See below

- ***For the assaults deemed moderate and serious, could I please have further details about what role the staff member holds (e.g. nurse, orderly etc), their gender, where they work, if the assault involved a weapon (please specify what the weapon was), what injuries were sustained, and what action was taken as a result (e.g. charges laid, etc).***

Due to the low numbers of actual assaults it would be inappropriate to provide brief summaries of individual incidents as this could result in people being identified, however, all actual assaults relate to very unwell mental health and ED (alcohol or substances) patients being aggressive and agitated leading to violent behaviour directed to staff.

- ***Could I also please have a copy of any reports or documents relating to assaults and violence towards staff published in 2020 or 2021.***

No reports were published.

The number of assaults on staff for years 2018,2019,2020,2021,2022 (to current date)

Incidents type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1 st January – 30 th April

					2022
Verbal Abuse	138	172	148	161	31
Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual assault	1	0	0	3	0
Physical threat	48	62	52	57	13
Physical Assault	8	12	7	9	19
Days off Work	12	365	45	375	5
Total	195	246	207	228	61

2. Could I please have this broken down into minor, moderate, and serious assaults: Please see table below for break down

Degree of Assault	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1st January – 30th April 2022
Minor	6	10	6	7	5
Moderate	2	0	0	0	0
Serious	0	2	1	2	0

No Notifiable events requiring reporting to WorkSafe NZ for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 or year to date 2022.

Minor = no treatment, first aid only or less than 7 days off work due to injury as a consequence of assault.

No weapons have been used in any of the serious assaults which have occurred since 2018 to end of April 2022.

With regard to verbal and physical threats directed towards nursing, midwifery, health care assistants, security and doctors, these incidents are directed either by patients or wider whānau due to frustration at not having their perceived needs met or being intoxicated with alcohol and/or substances.

Threats and actual assaults are reported to the Police when it has been deemed to be behaviour which is not due to underlying medical reasons.