

16 July 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

## YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020028

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 7 February 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

***Please state how many patients detained under the Mental Health Act have:***

***1) Left a DHB-operated open or secure facility/ward in the past seven years, 2013 to present, when they were not supposed to or were supposed to return through;***

- a) escorted leave;***
- b) unescorted leave;***
- c) escape;***
- d) transfer;***
- e) weekend or day leave;***
- f) any other way.***

***Please break down by year and type of facility.***

The following table holds data retrieved from our event management system for the period 2013 – 2020. Please note:

- The recorded definitions within HBDHB's event management system which most closely align with your request and which is reported below are "Unauthorised leave" and "left without being seen".
- Data relates to patients admitted to the DHB's acute inpatient unit at Hawke's Bay Hospital and detained under the Mental Health Act.
- The data records events, not individuals, and therefore a single individual may 'appear' in a number of events.
- No further detail is able to be provided without a manual search and review of seven years of hard copy records by the DHB's mental health staff. They estimate this would take at least 40 hours and significantly impact their clinical duties. Therefore HBDHB decline to provide the additional information you have requested under section 18 f of the Official Information Act relating to significant collation and review.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of events	24	21	12	26	13	7	20	2

***2) Please state how many of those patients who left while under DHB mental health care died by suicide or suspected suicide. Please break down by year, ethnicity and gender.***

Hawke's Bay DHB does not hold the information you have requested regarding the details related to cause of death. The Coroner's Office is responsible for any definitive determination of a cause of

death, or making a provisional finding of suicide. Therefore under section 18(c)(i) of the Official Information Act, being that making this information available would contravene section 71 of the Coroner's Act.

**3) Please state how many of those patients disappeared and were never found again.**

We are not aware of any patients who may have disappeared and were never found again. To confirm this would require a manual search and review of patient files – refer response provided to question 1.

**4) Please state how many of those patients suffered an adverse event/trauma through the unapproved departure; ie raped, robbed, assaulted, accidental death or homicide etc.**

Hawke's Bay DHB advise it does not hold this information.

**5) Please state for the same time frame the number of patients who died INSIDE the DHB-run mental health facility and type of death, eg suicide, suspected.**

No patients have died inside HBDHB mental health facilities for the period in question, ie 2013 – 2020.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours sincerely



Chris Ash  
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