

28 April 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021031

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 28 March 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (Hawke's Bay DHB). Your questions and the DHB's response is provided below:

This is an OIA request regarding incidents of sexual and physical assaults in children and youth aged 0 to 17 in the last five years to date [28/03/2021].

- 1. How many children have presented to the hospital (however they were admitted) with sexual assault in the last five years to date, each year individually and what were their ages?***
- 2. What were the causes in all the cases?***
- 3. Were they reported? And was anyone charged?***
- 4. How many children have presented to the hospital with physical abuse for the same duration, each year individually and what were their ages?***
- 5. What were the causes in all the cases?***
- 6. Were they reported? And was anyone charged?***
- 7. If the assaults, sexual and physical, were not reported, why not?***

With regards to questions 1 and 4 Hawke's Bay DHB does not hold specific data of ED presentations per your request. Therefore, under Section 18 (e) of the Official Information Act 1982, the DHB is unable to provide this response due to the information that does not exist.

The DHB does, however, hold inpatient admission data where physical or sexual abuse is suspected. Due to limited numbers under Section 9 (2) (a) of the Official Information Act 1982, individual data has been grouped to protect the privacy of natural persons.

**Please note this data is grouped between 0-17 years and is not confirmed abuse data, but 'suspected' abuse data.*

Discharge Year	Total
2016	20
2017	30
2018	19
2019	20
2020	21
2021*	6

** January – February 2021*

With regards to questions 2 and 5, the DHB does not collect data detailing causes. Data is collected based on a patient being assessed for 'signs' of physical or sexual abuse. Therefore, under Section 18 (e) of the Official Information Act 1982 this part of your request is declined because the information does not exist.

With regards to questions 3, 6 and 7, all cases of child abuse and neglect are reported to the relevant authorities, New Zealand Police and/or Oranga Tamariki, as per clinical policy guidelines and a Memorandum of Understanding between the DHB, Oranga Tamariki and the Police.

Hawke's Bay DHB does not hold information regarding outcomes of investigations by the above authorities.

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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